

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

2 hurt in plane crash at airport



WATER WELL

Personnel from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. perform repairs to KG-20 with funding secured by the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse under the Office of the Governor through the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs' Maintenance Assistance Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Pacific Rim eyes 250 Imperial Pacific hotel rooms by August

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

After months of cutting ties with its former contractor, MCC International, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has inked a deal with

Pacific Rim Contractors last week to continue construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

Keith Stewart, president of Guam-based contractor Pacific Rim, said the target right now is to meet the re-

See PACIFIC on Page 4

Police backed by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents served a search warrant last Saturday at a home along Tinaktak Drive in Koblerville, reviving the search for the sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, whose disappearance now enter its seventh year.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said yesterday she has not seen the full police report about the search.

Saipan Tribune learned from a
See SISTERS on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Authorities, using a backhoe, dig the back portion of a house in Koblerville last Saturday where they searched for the remains of the missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk. Apparently no remains were found. The owner of the house is the late mother of convicted murderer Joseph A. Crisostomo.

INSIDE



LOCAL

The first-ever joint CNMI/FEMA catastrophic typhoon plan is now an official document.

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LOCAL

Twenty officers were recently trained on how to deal with an active shooter.

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LIFE & STYLE

"Black Panther" makes a record-setting \$192 million debut in U.S. and Canada theaters.

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Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

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TAGAMAN 51.50/70.3
March 24, 2018

TAGAKIDS
March 17, 2018

Tagaman 51.50/70.3 is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), aimed at attracting visiting athletes and media coverage for The Marianas. Organization of this year's event has been co-hosted and in cooperation with Triathlon Association of the CNMI (TRAC).

Registration is now available online for at www.webscorer.com under Race ID 116992 or by linking via www.saipantriathlon.com. The registration fee through Feb. 28 is \$120/solo for 70.3 and \$100 solo/\$200 team for 51.50. Registration after Feb. 28 will be \$150/solo for 70.3 and \$120 solo/\$240 team for 51.50. The last day to register is Mar. 17.

This year's starting point and swim leg will be Kanoa Resort Saipan, the official hotel of the event. Bikers will transition at Mina'chom Attdao Pavilion in Susupe and make the 40K bike course to Banzai Cliff and back, while 70.3 participants will go straight all the way to Koblerville and back. The 10K run will turn around at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, while 70.3 will have to do 2 loops at the pathway to complete the course.

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in the women's and men's open categories: \$1,000 for 1st place, \$700 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place. Medals will be awarded for the Age Group Division, team and individual finishers respectively.

To kick-off the Tagaman Triathlon, Tagakids Triathlon is scheduled on March 17, 2018, a week before the main event Tagaman Triathlon. It will be held at Paupau Beach, Marpi. Registration for Tagakids opens on Mar. 1, 2018 at saipantriathlon.com

Early sponsors for the 29th Tagaman Triathlon are Kanoa Resort Hotel, DFS, IT&E, Marpac, Pacific Development, Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Triple J Enterprises, Pacifica Insurance, RNV Construction, Marianas Resort & Spa, Saipan Ice & Water, The Shack, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., Tan Holding Corp. & TSL Foundation, Marianas Medical Center, Star Water, Coca-cola, Bridge Capital LLC, Let's Go Tour, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kingfisher Golf Links, and more.

Upcoming Events
SAIPAN MARATHON
March 10, 2018

www.mymarianas.com

Local

Charges vs hotel staff dismissed

The charges against a hotel employee accused of kissing and touching a woman inside an elevator have been dismissed.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan issued the dismissal order last week in the case against Darwin B. Barbo, after assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass moved for the voluntary dismissal of the charges.

The case was dismissed with prejudice, which means

the government cannot re-file the case in the future.

The \$500 bail that Barbo posted shall be returned to him.

The judge also ordered the immediate return of Barbo's passport.

The OAG filed two counts of disturbing the peace against Barbo.

According to then-assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub in the information, Barbo touched the victim in an offensive manner, causing her

to push him away. Weintraub said Barbo also followed the victim against her will, causing her to become afraid.

Last September, Barbo's previous lawyer, then-assistant public defender Jamal Saleh, moved to dismiss the charges. The motion was not heard as Saleh had been missing since last Oct. 3.

In Barbo's motion to dismiss, Saleh argued that what they are dealing with in this case is innocent flirtation.

The lawyer said the woman rejected the flirtation, and Barbo did not repeat his attempt.

Saleh said the alleged following is nothing more than a courtesy escort out of the Kensington Hotel building.

He said the woman was at the hotel on business and had an appointment to see Barbo.

After the appointment, Saleh said, Barbo walked her to the exit of the hotel and then returned to his office.

He said it goes without saying that, under the circumstances, the statute and the charge do not put Barbo on notice that his actions could lead to criminal prosecution. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Company fined for failing to produce docs on time

The CNMI Department of Labor fined in mid-January a company after it failed to produce required documents that the department demands on a quarterly basis.

The department issued a penalty of \$2,000 against Xian Tang Sanchez, which does business as 24/7 Security Services. The penalty is the maximum amount imposed on businesses that fail to produce documents on time.

The \$1,000 is to be paid within 30 days. The remaining \$1,000 is suspended for two years, then extinguished if Sanchez commits no further violations within the period.

Regardless of whether a written request is submitted or not, DOL requires employers to submit documents—sometimes more than once a year—for recordkeeping at the department's end.

The department sent a request to Sanchez last Sept. 26, asking for her Total Workforce Listing, her Workforce Plan, Employer's Quarterly Withholding Tax for the last four quarters, payroll records for the last four quarters, business license, annual corporate report, a map of the business location, and more.

Her deadline was last Oct. 11, 2017.

DOL regulations usually require employers to submit their Total Workforce Listings quarterly and an updated workforce plan annually.

Sanchez was found unable to submit both to DOL even after several extensions.

A DOL message last Oct. 23 to a manager from the business, named Osman Gani, gave the company an extension of one day, requiring the business to submit the documents on Oct. 24, 2017.

On Oct. 27, 2017, Gani called DOL seeking another extension.

Come Nov. 17, 2017, the business has yet to produce the documents, forcing DOL to file a case with a hearing on Dec. 18, 2017.

On the day of the hearing, Sanchez was able to produce most of the requested documents but still lacked some. The business was able to complete DOL's request only on Jan. 2, 2018.

Sanchez told DOL that she signed a power of attorney that enables Gani to manage and operate a security business under her ownership and name.

Gani testified at the hearing that he was unable to produce

the documents as he was involved in a USDOL investigation. However, based on information obtained from the USDOL investigator involved

in the case, he only met with Gane twice and only took copies of documents—not the original documents itself. DOL presiding hearing

officer Jerry Cody found that the employer's delayed response to the request for documents for DOL "wasted departmental resources by re-

quiring [DOL] Enforcement [and Compliance Section] to file the present case and attend a hearing to recover the documents."

He noted that a case could have been avoided if the employer had acted responsibly and produced the documents on time. (*Erwin Encinare*)

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5 earthquakes occur in one week

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deletorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Man gets 3 years for conspiring to steal tourist's wallet

One of two ex-convict cousins accused of robbing a female tourist in western Garapan pleaded guilty last week and was slapped with a three-year prison term.

Lucky Michael Chipuelong, also known as Michael Chipuelong, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit theft and

Two more earthquakes occurred near Saipan over the weekend, but there were no

reports of damage to property nor did it cause a tsunami warning.

admitted to violating the terms and conditions of his probation in a previous criminal conviction.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced the 30-year-old Chipuelong to two years in prison.

His probation was revoked and will serve one year of his

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for a response from the U.S. Ge-

Chipuelong confessed to police that they conspired to rob the tourist and that it was Ruben who grabbed the victim's purse.

A concerned citizen who witnessed the robbery followed the suspects' car, resulting in the arrest of the two. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

at 5:34pm.

At 5:58pm, responding DFEMS emergency medical technicians were met at the airport by ARFF personnel, who moved the patients from the crash site.

The emergency medical technicians assessed the pilot and the passenger before transporting them to the Commonwealth Health Center.

According to Star Marianas Air administrative manager Alma G. Canlas,

the aircraft landed short of the approach end of runway 7 after it departed on a sightseeing flight with one passenger.

Canlas said the pilot reportedly experienced a loss of performance and decided to return to the airport but was unable to complete the landing on the runway.

The plane landed short of the runway on the airport property.

Canlas said the cause of the

performance loss is being researched by Star Marianas Air mechanics.

She said the flight was being conducted under Federal Aviation Administration flight-seeing rules.

Canlas noted that the flight-seeing operation, the aircraft, and the pilot are not part of Star Marianas Air's certified airline operations.

There was no mention as to the extent of damage to the plane.

PLANE

From Page 1

a 25-year-old Chinese woman, suffered minor abrasions and redness in the face, according to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services last night.

DFEMS said they received a call from the Commonwealth Ports Authority Aircraft Firefighting about a plane crash inside the airport

LAWYER

From Page 1

According to Matt Holley, an attorney at the Torres Brother law firm, the article, "A Chinese Casino Has Conquered a Piece of America," published by *Bloomberg Businessweek* last week, left out several key points about their client, Changwei Xu, who had a \$7-million Nevada arrest warrant for an outstanding debt at a Nevada casino.

The Bloomberg piece stated that a man named Changwei Xu was detained at the Saipan airport in October "because of a Nevada arrest warrant, with bail there set at \$7 million. But Imperial Pacific didn't want him locked up. The Torres Brothers law firm quickly informed the CNMI Department of Corrections that Xu was its client and, remarkably, requested that he be released on medical grounds to house

arrest, under Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's supervision. The government agreed."

Holley, who was a prosecutor in New York City, said that Attorney General Edward Manibusan made the decision last October 2017 to have Xu released and placed under house arrest.

"As a former prosecutor myself from New York City, I know that the [attorney general] should be concerned about having someone in jail that shouldn't be, especially one with a heart condition," he said.

Holley added that the basis for the detention was extinguished when the debt was satisfied that same day.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Xu's debt was settled by an unnamed agent from Best Sunshine, the company that ran Imperial Pacific's temporary live casino inside the T Galleria.

Holley also noted that the Bloomberg story failed to recognize that the Nevada casino from whom Xu owed money had verified that the matter had been resolved. He added that the Clark County District Attorney declined to extradite Xu.

Holley represented Xu under the Torres Brothers law firm. He questioned why the article's author failed to seek comments from him, since he represented Xu, and from Manibusan since he is the AG.

"None was provided in the article," Holley said.

Holley further questioned whether the author verified with the Clark County District Attorney or with the Nevada casino on the resolved debt prior to his client's release.

In a statement by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in response to the Bloomberg reporter's inquiries, Torres noted that it was Manibusan who opted to

release Xu.

"Mr. Xu was detained at the CNMI Department of Corrections. The law firm, through Matt Holley, represented Mr. Xu. Because of a medical condition (diabetes and high blood pressure), Holley and our elected Attorney General Edward Manibusan agreed to have DOC release Mr. Xu and to allow IPI to provide him accommodations until Holley could work out why he was arrested.

"To be clear, the governor was not involved in this decision and he happened to be off-island at that time," the statement adds, adding that it was later found out that Xu had a debt in Las Vegas and that throughout the process, there was full coordination among U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the CNMI Department of Public Safety, and CNMI DOC.

As for over the 1,044 H2-Bs that IPI was able to acquire to do construction work early this year that are set to arrive in the coming weeks, Stewart said that they haven't worked that through with IPI.

"We haven't worked through that with IPI yet as IPI applied for them before we were involved with the project. We will be working with IPI, though, on how to best utilize the opportunities that are out there," Stewart said.

"Currently, the priority is to finish the programs in place to go and help grow the workforce," Stewart added.

PACIFIC

From Page 1

quirements IPI has established with the CNMI government—building 250 rooms at the IPI resort by August.

"Pacific Rim signed a contract last week with IPI so we are looking for talented craftsmen and craftswomen. If you have the talent and we are looking at every trade right now, we have a lot of opportunities," he said.

"One of these targets is the deadline of August for a certain number of rooms, 250. That's what we are targeting

right now and so we have a lot of work to sort out. We are starting to mobilize, we have 40 people on the ground. Next week, we will probably triple that and keep growing from there," he added.

In an earlier interview, Eric Poon of IPI said that discussions between Pacific Rim Contractors in Guam and IPI have been ongoing since December 2017.

With the shortage of construction workers on island, Pacific Rim is said to have access to U.S.-eligible workers.

"There's a number of bumps along the road in various capacities as there

would be in any project and workforce is obviously a challenge. We are looking to hire everyone we can possibly hire on Saipan," Stewart said.

"We will continue to reach out as we will be bringing over craftsmen from Guam and expanding out even in the [U.S.] mainland, as well as H2-Bs. Our company has never hired H2-Bs. As a Guam-based contractor, we've only hired local workers, so that's our first choice," he added.

H2B are foreign workers with temporary U.S. visa work permits.

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logical Survey as to the possible reasons behind the five earthquakes within a week.

The series of earthquakes that hit the CNMI, Japan, and Taiwan, and the eruption of Mayon Volcano in the Philippines, have sparked fears that a "Big One" is on the way.

Some scientists, however, downplayed the scenario, saying the activity is normal for the Pacific Ring of Fire.

The CNMI is located within the Pacific Ring of Fire, a horseshoe shaped geological disaster zone that circles the Pacific Ocean basin where tectonic plates (earth's crust) meet or collide.

No tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center with the recent five temblors.

A 4.7 magnitude earthquake happened 81.4 miles southeast of Saipan on Saturday at

7:53am.

Last Friday, a 5.0 magnitude tremor occurred 93.2 miles east southeast of Saipan at 12:28am.

Last Wednesday at 1:33am, a 4.5 magnitude earthquake occurred 10.6 miles west-northwest of Agrihan.

Last Tuesday at 12:48pm, a 5.6 magnitude earthquake jolted 84.5 miles east-southeast of Rota.

Last Monday, Feb. 12, at 9:14am, a 6.2 magnitude earthquake occurred 86 miles east of Rota. Some residents of Saipan felt the jolt.

A 6.4 magnitude tremor hit Taiwan's coastline last Feb. 6, killing 17 people and injuring hundreds.

Three earthquakes hit Japan since Feb. 11, with the strongest at 4.8 magnitude.

Last Jan. 24, tens of thousands of people evacuated their homes when Mayon erupted.

the search warrant.

In issuing the search warrant, authorities were commanded to seize and prepare a written inventory of the property seized pursuant to this warrant on or before Aug. 17, 2018.

Janet H. King, the lawyer for Crisostomo in the murder case, told *Saipan Tribune* that Crisostomo has no connection to the unsolved disappearance of the Luhk sisters.

She described what happened to the Luhk sisters one of the most shocking and tragic crimes in the CNMI.

The Luhk sisters were reported missing on May 25, 2011, in As Teo.

King said Crisostomo was in the CNMI Department of Corrections at that time for a previous criminal conviction and was released after serving five years on Dec. 17, 2011.

The lawyer said that, according to the family, the police and FBI did not find any remains.

This coming May 25 marks the seventh year of the mysterious disappearance of the Luhk sisters near a public school bus pavilion in As Teo, with still no trace of the children.

The parents of the children have been separated. The mother moved to Virginia from Guam two years ago. The father was last reported to be in Pohnpei.

Then 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk were last seen on May 25, 2011, waiting for a school bus near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo.

The sisters' disappearance resulted in the most extensive search of missing persons in CNMI history. A tracking dog from Hawaii was even flown to the island to conduct searches.

Authorities used a backhoe, among other tools, to dig the back portion of the house belonging to "Ana and Calistro."

Ana is the mother of Joseph A. Crisostomo, who was slapped with life imprisonment in May 2014 for the murder, rape, and kidnapping of bartender Emerita Romero. Ana passed away last year.

Calistro is Joseph Crisostomo's brother, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The subject of the search warrant was Ana and Calistro's residential compound/ground vicinity behind the house. The house is described to be an unpainted semi-concrete structure along Tinaktak Drive.

"There is being concealed or buried within the ground human remains believed to be of the missing Luhk sisters, Faloma and Maleina," the source said, quoting the police sergeant in the application for

AT HEARING ON HOW TO PAY \$2.6M JUDGMENT TO BUSINESSWOMAN

Quichocho, wife allowed to appear at hearing by phone

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has allowed disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances, to appear by telephone at a hearing on how they can pay a \$2.6 million judgment to businesswoman Jung Ja Kim.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted on Feb. 7 the Quichocho couple's request to appear by telephone at a Feb. 22 hearing.

The Quichochos are currently in Washington State, claiming personal and medical reasons, and cannot appear personally on Saipan for hearing.

The couple said that attorney Michael Dotts will be withdrawing as their lawyer in Kim's case.

Kim, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the court to issue an order in aid of judgment against her former

'Used tires are for practicality'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Rota member of the House of Representatives told *Saipan Tribune* that his bill to allow the importation of used vehicle tires for personal use is geared toward the practicality of its use for people in the CNMI.

Citing traffic provisions prohibiting vehicles from going over 45 miles per hour, Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) believes that his House Bill 20-121, HD1 is perfect for people who wish to secure decent tires for their cars without spending too much for brand new ones.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan thinks otherwise. His comments on the bill, dated Jan. 31, 2018, and addressed to Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian), stated that, although the bill is legally sufficient, there are some policy concerns.

"...Tires that have already been used present a serious safety issue. There is no system in place to evaluate the imported used tires to ensure they are road-worthy," said Manibusan, adding that the absence of such system could risk motorists' safety.

Manibusan added that the "effect on the poor," as the bill intends to assist, should also be considered. Manibusan pointed out that those less fortunate may risk their safety, their family's safety, and other motorists' safety "to make ends meet."

"Furthermore, individuals who can afford new tires

attorney, Quichocho, his law office, his wife Frances, and another business that the couple owned under the name of Karissa LLC.

The court entered a \$2,411,719 judgment in April 2014 in favor of Kim. Following that, the Quichochos filed for bankruptcy protection in Washington.

Kim then filed an adversary proceeding at the bankruptcy court where the Quichochos filed their bankruptcy petition. An adversary proceeding is a separate lawsuit filed within the bankruptcy case.

Kim brought the adversary proceeding to challenge the dischargeability of the Quichochos' debts. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court issued last April a final judgment that favored Kim.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Brian D. Lynch agreed with Kim that certain debts arising out of a judgment Kim had obtained against the

but who do not want to pay full price may elect to use imported used tires, thereby endangering themselves and their fellow motorists," added Manibusan.

In response, Maratita compared the CNMI to neighboring Guam, where secondhand tires are an option.

"...If we were to input our practical sense, who would want to buy tires that are not safe?" asked Maratita.

Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* that using used tires "shouldn't be an issue to begin with" and in terms of safety, he said he knows one would use "good judgment [when] purchasing used tires."

"The only concern there is the existing law would not authorize people from bringing [used tires] in. What my bill does is give the less fortunate the opportunity to bring those tires in," he said.

Maratita added that since the speed limit in the CNMI is up to 45 miles per hour, it would be ideal to use used tires.

H.B. 20-121 was amended by the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, chaired by Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) and passed the House last November.

H.B. 20-121 is currently with the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Developments, and Programs, which is chaired by Sen. Borja. According to Borja's office, the committee is still waiting for comments from mayors, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Department of Commerce, and more.

Quichocho couple on Saipan are non-dischargeable.

Lynch declared as non-dischargeable a total of \$2,606,661 that the Quichocho couple owe Kim.

Not dischargeable means that even if the Quichochos filed for bankruptcy, they will still owe these debts to Kim.

Lynch ruled that the Quichocho couple's debt to Kim under the U.S. District Court judgment relating to three Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act claims in the original

amount of \$387,791.15 are non-dischargeable.

The judge also declared that the Quichocho couple's debts to Kim under the same judgment for conversion of the Tan Dingo LLC and Latte Stone LLC in the original amount of \$2,218,870 are non-dischargeable.

Lynch, however, denied Kim's claims that certain other damages from the judgment are non-dischargeable, including for breach of fiduciary duty, legal malpractice, unpaid rent and property

removal and destruction.

Because of the bankruptcy filing, in May 2015, U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson suspended the proceedings relating to Kim's motion for an order in aid of judgment.

In Kim's application for an order in aid of judgment, Torres said the court should order the Quichochos to appear for questioning and determine the fastest manner in which the couple can pay the judgment.

In his declaration in April 2015, Quichocho says he is

now self-employed and works as a truck driver in Tacoma, Washington, and that, due to his financial hardship, he cannot afford to make any payments to Kim.

Quichocho made the declaration in support of his and his wife Frances' joint opposition to Kim's motion for order in aid of judgment.

That racketeering lawsuit eventually ended up in March 2014 with the federal jury holding the Quichocho couple liable to pay \$2.4 million in damages to Kim.

The court later awarded Kim \$387,791.15 for her damages, costs, and attorney's fees.

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Torres, FEMA ink first catastrophic typhoon plan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Robert Fenton, regional administrator of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX, signed Thursday last week the final draft of the first-ever joint CNMI/FEMA catastrophic typhoon plan, which was created following the devastation of the islands by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

FEMA Region IX planner Janet Yucum and CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency chief planner/grants manager Brien Sers Nicholas Jr. made a presentation about the final plan.

The plan's objectives are to provide emergency power to maintain continuity of essential operations and restore the power infrastructure; stabilize the water distribution and wastewater systems; deliver fuel to maintain continuity of essential operations and services; conduct mass care services and sheltering of survivors; distribute essential commodities and immediate response resources; facilitate recovery of the marine transportation system; and reestablish



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX regional administrator Robert Fenton sign the first-ever catastrophic typhoon plan during a ceremony last week at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill. Also in the photo are Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management information officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

lish public health and medical services at critical emergency medical facilities.

Torres said the catastrophic typhoon plan is a living document and changes will be made along the way.

"But this is definitely the right approach moving for-

ward," Torres said, adding that disaster is inevitable and that is it just a matter of when it will hit the CNMI.

He said he was the acting governor when Typhoon Soudelor devastated the islands, and his first main concern was the safety of the

community and whether there were casualties.

With this plan, Torres said, it is just a matter of government agencies, the private sector, the community, non-government organizations, FEMA, and neighboring islands coming together, putting the working documents together for the CNMI to move forward and have a standard, documentation for guidelines.

As to why there was no catastrophic typhoon plan before Soudelor, Torres said perhaps because the CNMI never had such an experience before.

"It is an opportunity for us to go back and collaborate on all the experiences we've had," he said.

The governor said they have been educating the community on preparedness, but at the same time they are working also on what to prepare.

Torres pointed out that FEMA left behind about 13 generators and that they have already identified which water well they will be used to pump and provide water.

When the next strong typhoon hits, the CNMI already has generators for the wells to provide water.

"We are here with federal partners to alleviate the hardships," he said.

In his speech, Torres recalled that Typhoon Soude-

lor was the worst typhoon he ever experienced. Torres said he was the acting governor at that time and it took him three hours, instead of the normal 20 minutes, to go from his house in Kobilerville to the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill because of the devastation.

"I didn't know if there's a plan. I didn't know what we have," he said, adding that his priority then was to make sure the roads are clear in case of emergencies.

Torres disclosed that they are looking at establishing new rules and regulations for public lands.

"Any public land should have access to water supply in case of disaster," he said.

Torres cited, among other things, that many of the islands' power poles are now concrete.

"We have gone a long way from where we were in 2015, but we still have a long way ahead of us," the governor added.

The FEMA regional administrator, Fenton, said the catastrophic typhoon plan took two years to make. The process started out with the FEMA leadership coming to the CNMI in June 2016 to analyze the recovery efforts from Soudelor and to talk about the lessons learned.

"Through the collaboration of both governments, we identified and addressed the critical areas that required attention, which are all reflected in the plan's final draft," he said.

He said they looked at areas where they needed to better plan for and have contingency plans for the CNMI.

"And from that, we established multiple work groups... and...plans on how we respond to that event," he said.

Fenton said that, as things change, the infrastructure will change and so will the plan. "Over time we continue to take necessary steps."

Fenton said power poles have been replaced with concrete poles and that FEMA left the generators here to pump up water wells in case of another disaster.

"It's an example on how we use federal resources in partnership with the Commonwealth and others to make a more resilient community," he said.

Fenton said the CNMI's recovery from Soudelor is a great model across the country. He shared the CNMI lessons with the national emergency managers association this past fall.

When he goes around the country or talk in Washington, D.C., Fenton would use as an example what FEMA and the CNMI did to rebuild the infrastructure here.

As FEMA is so far from the CNMI and Guam, Fenton said they are trying to streamline their program to make it easier for their customers and stakeholders.

"It's a big step to have a plan," he said, emphasizing that a plan is only the starting point. "We need to go ahead and continue to educate people about that plan."

HSEM special assistant Gerald J. Guerrero said the catastrophic typhoon plan will guide the Commonwealth through future natural disasters.

Guerrero said it was nearly two years ago when they gathered, both officials from the state and federal governments, to begin drafting the plan.

Guerrero said it was Typhoon Soudelor's devastation of the islands that brought the CNMI and FEMA together to re-examine, re-assess and strengthen their disaster preparedness and recovery plan.

"Through the collaboration of both governments, we identified and addressed the critical areas that required attention, which are all reflected in the plan's final draft," he said.

Kilili calls for change in gun laws

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is urging his colleagues in Congress to take action against school gun violence.

This, in the wake of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High

School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 15, 2018, that killed 17 people.

In a statement, Sablan said that just feeling sad was "not enough."

"...Today, along with most of my Democratic colleagues

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CCLHS Performing Arts Contests

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Marianas High School representatives pose for a photo during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Feb. 9 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center.



The students from Tinian Elementary School pose for a photo during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Feb. 9 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center.



Marianas High School representatives pose for a photo during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Feb. 9 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center.



The students from Oleai Elementary School pose for a photo during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Feb. 9 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center.

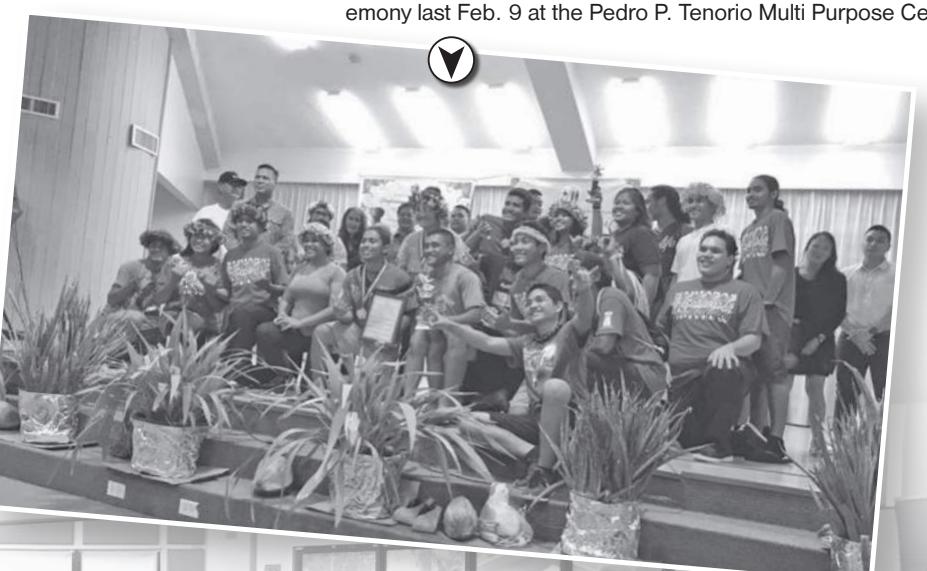


Over a dozen trophies were distributed during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Feb. 9 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center.

Marianas High School places first for the Chamorro cultural dance performance category during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Feb. 9 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center.



The students from Sinapalo Elementary School pose for a photo after receiving one of their awards during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies performing arts competition on Feb. 9 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center is packed with students, teachers, parents, and more during the first Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies performing arts competition awarding ceremony last Feb. 9.



Saipan Shipping donates to NMC Foundation

To support higher education in the CNMI, Saipan Shipping Inc. recently made a \$5,000 donation to the NMC Foundation.

The donation was made as part of the NMC Foundation's 15th Annual Foundation Open Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2018. The event will be the first major golf tournament of the year.

"Saipan Shipping supports activities that train our students and ensure that they thrive personally and professionally," said Saipan Shipping general manager Darlene Cabrera. "We are proud to be a part of the NMC Foundation's fund-

raising efforts."

"We are excited to have Saipan Shipping on board with our fundraising efforts," said NMC president

Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are appreciative of the company's support."

The golf tournament is the NMC Foundation's signa-

NMC
Saipan Shipping Inc. recently donated \$5,000 in cash in support of the upcoming annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 3, 2018. In the photo are Saipan Shipping employees, led by Saipan Shipping president Juan S. Tenorio, fourth from left, and NMC staff and students led by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, third from left.

ture event that raises funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

The 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (west course). Showtime is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the

men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive \$500, while \$300 and \$200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively.

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2017 Honda HR-V from Joeten Motors, \$10,000 in cash from Marianas Insurance Co., and \$5,000 in cash from Pacifica Insurance. The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. (NMC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-18-IFB-009

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ANIMAL SHELTER BUILDING AS PERDIDO, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph D. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Construction of New Animal Shelter, As Perdido, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 6, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 22, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 2, 2018** to Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-18-IFB-009**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time March 7, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 7, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@otpcom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 7, 2018** and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 16, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 21, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 7, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REMIGIO N. NELMIDA) FCD-DI-CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION NO.
vs.) 18-0012
SOLEDAD MADRIGAL) SUMMONS FOR
NELMIDA) PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 8032 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2018.
/s/
Clerk of Court



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INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2018
TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2018-002

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Tinian

Proposal packets will be available on February 20, 2018, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Tinian Field Office in San Jose, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIA 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on March 2, 2018, at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose, Tinian.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairwoman,
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director,
Division of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

'Fake news' is bad, but how 'complicit' are you in its spread?

The term "fake news," already embedded in the national psyche of this country, achieved global recognition when the UK-based Collins Dictionary declared it the Word of the Year for 2017, citing its "ubiquitous presence."

The masquerading of fake news as real, and assaults on real news as fake, threatens our democratic institutions, including that of a free press. This compounds problems abroad and creates tensions worldwide.

Collins defines the term as "false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting." President Donald Trump uses it as a rhetorical device to discount an unfavorable story or distrusted news outlet or diminish the media at large.

Others are following his lead: Trump surrogates, members of Congress, autocrats and dictators elsewhere now alleging fake news treatment, and political analysts who argue that unverified information that is "out there" gives them license to repeat it as fact.

Fake news comes in different forms, ranging from total fabrication to distortion of facts to state-sponsored propaganda to the spread of erroneous content on social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Trump repeatedly turns to Twitter to discredit the news media, tweeting about fake news 141 times from January through October, according to Fox News' Chris Wallace. Americans disturbingly are buying in. A Politico poll recently found that 46 percent of voters actually believe major news organizations make up stories about Trump.

This is troubling in the journalism universe. At least most major news organizations admit their mistakes. Still, we clearly need to do more to regain reader trust.

But readers and viewers also should find the spread of fake news troubling. Which brings us to another intriguing Word of the Year. Dictionary.com selected "complicit," noting the word's new relevance in politics and social commentary.

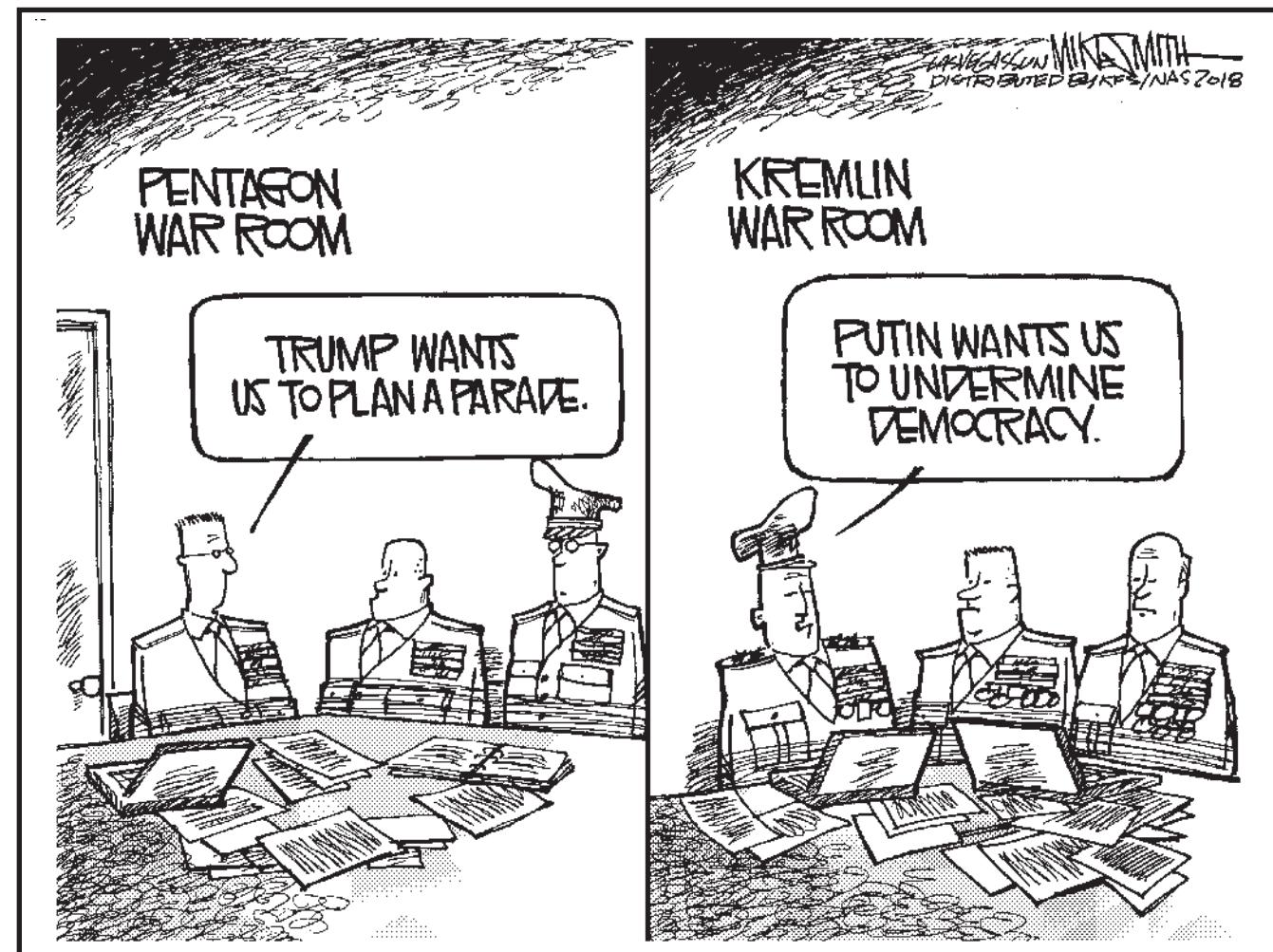
Dictionary.com says complicit means "choosing to be involved in an illegal or questionable act, especially with others; having partnership or involvement in wrongdoing." Put simply, it means being, at some level, responsible for something ... even if indirectly.

Interest in the word spiked during 2017, including after Republican U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona announced his retirement, saying, "I will not be complicit or silent" about the current political climate and the tone of Trump's presidency. It emerged in conversations about alleged sexual misconduct by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein and whether others knew of the behavior but failed to stop it.

The connection between "complicit" and "fake news" is easily made. Americans have become complicit in accepting and sharing fake news. We all need to be smarter in recognizing deception.

Some advice: Don't trust everything a friend shares with you online. Be your own fact-checker. Share only stories you know to be true. Call out "friends" who send you unverified

See FAKE on Next Page



Free community college for...some. It's a start

I'm teaching a journalism class this spring semester at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, where much has changed since I attended 20 years ago as a film major. There's a new library, for one, and a snazzy baseball field. The gigantic parking lot where I'd sleep in my '83 Corvette between lectures now has large solar panels that also act as much-needed shade.

But the cafeteria with better-than-average food thanks to our awesome culinary program is still there. So is a motivated student body that has the third-highest transfer rate to a UC or Cal State school of any community college in California (we'll pass you yet, Santa Monica City and De Anza). My students are like 19-year-old me: young, ambitious and ready to take on the world. Except cooler, of course.

The biggest difference between them and me, though? Tuition. It cost \$13 a unit my first year, and the price went down to \$12 by the time I graduated in 1999. As a full-time student taking 15 units per semester, that added up to just \$360 a year.

Community college students in California now pay \$46 a unit—\$1,380 a year for full-timers. And that doesn't include school fees, parking passes and a bunch of overpriced geology textbooks they'll likely never use again and will probably sell back to a used bookstore for pesos on the dollar.

That's why Gov. Jerry Brown's approval of \$46 million in California's 2018 budget to pay the tuition of first-time, full-time community college students might be his greatest political accomplishment. It's an investment not only in our economy, but also education and the state's future.

I was actually shocked at how cheaply we can pay for full-time, first-time community college students. Just \$46 million a year? That's about half of what a single mile will cost to connect Madera to Bakersfield in the California High-Speed Rail project—and I guarantee you that free tuition will take California further than any bullet train ever will.

Still, Brown, his successor and the California Legislature could do more. They could permanently set aside money to make community college free for anyone who wants to work toward a degree or career. Because, more so than our four-year schools, community colleges are foundries that shape the state's raw talent.

I'm obviously biased on this, but hear me out. No four-year university wanted me when I graduated from Anaheim High School in 1997, because my grades were low and my attitude toward school was lackadaisical. (I was that type of nerd who never did homework, got A's on tests, and always talked in class.) I could've ended up stuck as a go-kart attendant.

Everything changed the moment I enrolled at OCC. Adminis-

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO
Los Angeles Times



trators flagged me for counseling to ensure I took the right classes and developed a two-, four- and six-year plan. Professors were tough but understanding, and were there because they wanted to focus on teaching instead of publishing-or-perishing.

The experience transformed me. I finally reached my potential, and ended up with a bachelor's degree from Chapman University and a master's from UCLA. The biggest honor I'll ever receive in my life came when OCC inducted me into its Alumni Hall of Fame in 2015. And, while I stupidly decided to become a reporter instead of try and make it in Hollywood, I credit all my success to having attended Orange Coast.

Not everyone leaves high school with a clear sense of what they want to do, or with the right qualifications to attend a university. Some try to find a job, any job, but others feel strongly that they need to continue with their educations. Community college gives that latter group a chance to make it where other institutions of higher education won't.

I don't actually think community college should be free. Students who qualify should be required to give back in some way, whether through mentoring those who come after them or a promise to contribute to a school's scholarship fund once they find a job. Those who take advantage of free tuition must hit certain benchmarks toward a goal—we shouldn't pay for some film geek to take a bunch of classes with no plan other than to hone his monologue about why Rossellini is a more quintessentially Italian director than Fellini. And the state should limit tuition assistance to those who received the majority of their K-12 education in California—this is an investment in us, not the world.

This giveaway spurs the question: Why not free tuition at UCs and Cal States, too? Students are gathering signatures to put a proposition on the ballot this fall that would accomplish just that. It's a good conversation to have, and would return California to how our higher education system used to be: completely gratis. But let's start with something already funded. Let's expand it further next year. And if you want to take my class? Last day to add me was on Sunday—better luck next semester!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Constitution does not bar sensible gun rules

By CASS R SUNSTEIN

BLOOMBERG VIEW

The use of the Second Amendment to block consideration of sensible gun control measures is a national disgrace. And conservatives themselves have explained why this is true.

For decades, conservatives have objected to the use of constitutional provisions as a political weapon, insisting that con-

troversies should be resolved in democratic arenas instead. They have made this argument to oppose judicial recognition of the right to choose abortion; protection of same-sex marriage; creation of a rigid “wall” between church and state; and creation of new rights in the criminal justice system. Going even further, they have argued against the left’s efforts to use the Constitution to block reasonable political debates—about religion, about privacy, about equality—that the justices have never settled.

Bracket the question whether these arguments are always convincing. At a minimum, conservatives are right to raise the question whether the Constitution really does stop We the People, acting through our elected representatives, from addressing serious social problems in accordance with our values and our best judgments about the facts.

Turn in this light to the Second Amendment, which reads: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.” Historians have long debated whether the Second Amendment provides any protection, at all, for the individual right to own guns. There are reasonable arguments both ways.

For most of the 20th century, the firm consensus among federal judges—Republican or Democratic—was that it did not provide that protection.

It was not until 2008 that the Supreme Court ruled that it did. The justices were badly divided. Four members of the court agreed with the longstanding consensus. The majority opinion, joined by five justices, ruled that the Second Amendment does create an individual right of gun ownership. But the opinion, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, was modest and cautious.

Justice Scalia’s opinion did not come close to embracing the arguments made by those who invoke the Second Amendment as an all-purpose weapon against democratic efforts to prevent the murder of high-school kids. On the contrary, his opinion is full of permission slips for federal, state and local governments to act.

In a crucial sentence, Justice Scalia wrote, “Nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding

prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.”

Justice Scalia also emphasized that the Second Amendment is restricted to weapons “in common use at the time.” He added that the Constitution leaves government with many tools for combating the problem of handgun violence, including regulation.

After the court’s decision, lower courts have upheld numerous restrictions on the sale and ownership of guns. On dozens of occasions, the justices have declined to review such rulings, suggesting that they accept Justice Scalia’s permission slips.

It is true that the precise meaning of the Second Amendment has yet to be settled. But no one can doubt the central point: There is a profound disconnect between the actual meaning of the Second Amendment, as it is understood by courts, and political uses of the Second Amendment, as it is invoked in federal and state legislatures, and as a basis for attacking politicians who are thinking in good faith about how best to save lives.

Here’s another way to put it. Many people claim to oppose sensible gun-control reforms on the ground that they “are for the Second Amendment.” But everyone should be for the Second Amendment. The question is not whether to favor or oppose the Second Amendment, but which reforms, now acceptable under that amendment, should be enacted into law.

We the People are entitled to ask and answer that question—free from the would-be censorship of those who pound tables and purport to speak for the Second Amendment, but who actually have not the slightest interest in the Constitution of the United States.

Cass R. Sunstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is the author of #Republic: Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media and a co-author of Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness.”

Trump plan is bad for transit infrastructure

By LINDA BAILEY

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

In his January State of the Union address, President Donald Trump said we must build the “safe, fast, reliable, and modern infrastructure our economy needs and our people deserve.”

It is impossible to square that vision with the plan and budget he released on Feb. 12, which would actually cut billions in federal transportation funding.

Trump’s infrastructure plan calls for \$1.5 trillion in spending, but offers only \$200 billion in federal money, just 13 percent of the total. And, because it relies heavily on private funds, the plan prioritizes infrastructure projects that can turn a profit for investors. It’s as if the plan is designed to provide maximum benefit to Wall Street financiers, rather than to repair our country’s vital public infrastructure.

Worse, not all of that \$200 billion in federal funding is new money: the Trump administration intends to simply loot existing domestic programs, especially those dealing with public transportation.

Its proposed budget would wind down New Starts, which supports new rail and high-quality bus rapid transit lines, and gut the popular TIGER program, which has funded transit projects ranging from intermodal hubs to safer street redesigns, all with a significant local match. In fact, New Starts and TIGER already have the highest local match of any federal transportation programs.

In recent years, cities across the country have led the way on transportation, raising funds at the ballot box and executing visionary projects. Transit agencies in Denver, Charlotte, Phoenix and Indianapolis—among many others—have leveraged federal grants to generate billions of additional state, local and private funding. A forward-looking federal transportation plan would reward those groundbreaking efforts, instead of kneecapping them.

And Trump’s plan does little to repair the nation’s dismal trans-

portation infrastructure. All across the country, examples abound of bridges closed and trains slowed due to a lack of spending on maintenance, even when there are clear ways to help pay for essential repair needs.

For example, a modest increase in the gas tax could ensure the future of the Highway Trust Fund, which is now set to go bankrupt by 2020. The national gas tax was last raised in 1993 and its real value has fallen by almost 40 percent since then.

At the same time, we could follow up on policies passed in the bipartisan FAST Act in 2015, and provide meaningful new funding to support cities as they work to keep up with rapid population and economic growth.

President Trump could lead a bipartisan effort to repair and improve our country’s vital transportation infrastructure. Instead, he released what his budget director calls a “messaging document” that sends the wrong message. Cities are leading the way on transportation, raising funds and executing visionary projects. It’s time for federal partners to meet cities at the table, and fund the projects that will connect people to jobs and opportunities.

Linda Bailey is executive director of the National Association of City Transportation Officials, an association of 59 cities and nine transit agencies across North America.

FAKE

From Page 10

rubbish. Be willing to pay for journalism you trust.

Our nation needs discerning readers and viewers _ those who welcome honest journalism that holds leaders accountable and provides vital information for citizens to cast informed votes and contribute to decision-making.

Nothing less than our democracy depends on it.

A New Year's gift

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

The Republican Rift is a New Year gift

“As far as leadership is concerned our D.C. boss is really at a loss.”

—Republican Sen. Collins of Maine

As Old Man Winter slowly shuffles off this mortal coil it appears a narcissist nitwit will rule for another year it makes nonpartisan blood of sensible citizens boil brings to mind more Trumpty Dumpty tweets to fear Year Two of 45’s reign lies just a few weeks ahead reliable poll denial plus a new year cell phone ring sixteen times in a row “No Collusion” DJT will sing about his praise for dictators Sen. John McCain says, “It’s disturbing, very disturbing.” While Republican Sen. Corker says Trump is, “dividing the country and alienating other people instead of inspiring” Republican Sen. Flake calls out Pres. Trump’s “reckless and outrageous and undignified speech” Thanks for lessons these US Republican senators teach.

Chief Tweetologist: The Next Three Years

New Year’s Day has passed by and we are now proceeding as Wash D.C. is filled with many different investigations our beloved democracy is with virtual unreality bleeding as a praise loving narcissistic ignoramus leads our nation who knows where we will be led in the next three years with further executive orders bruising the constitution and an alt right base praising Cheeto Tweeto with cheers Tweetologist Twit’s ‘sad’ strategic simpleton solutions the Chief Confusing Ignoramus acting in TV addled action continues to make more absolutely inept appointments sycophants who will submit to and adhere to his satisfaction as he greases himself and billionaires with tax plan ointments however the next three years is not all doom and gloom there will be plenty more testifying in Mueller’s D.C. room.

45's Predilection for the Middle Finger

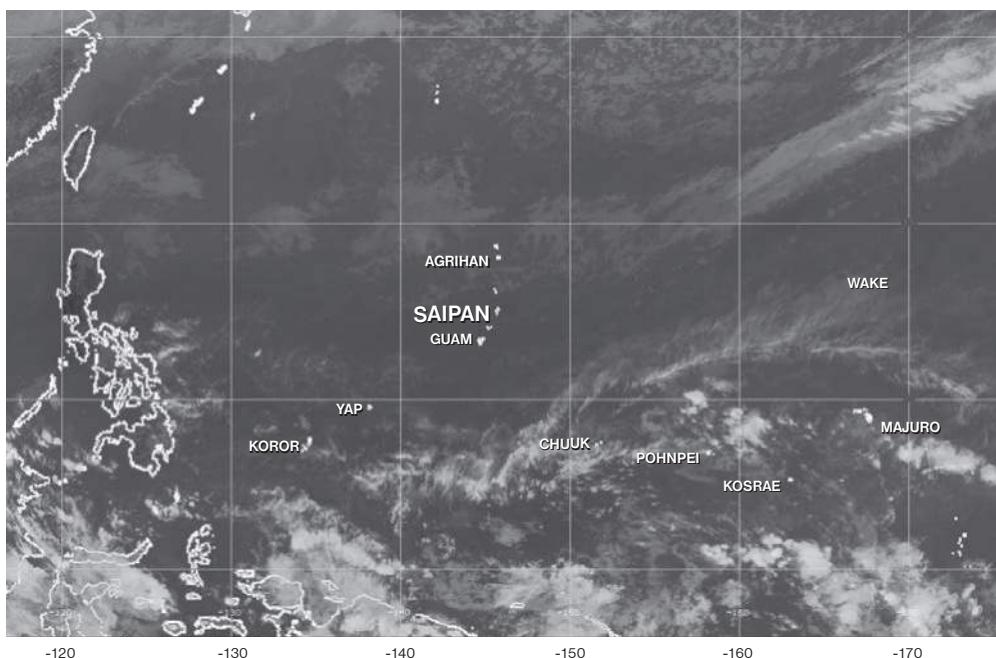
Twitter ignorance daily, insulting with every word the 45th President of the US flips our country the bird he sticks up his figurative middle finger to try us with his *predilection, prepossession, prejudice, bias* while Trump constantly tells the middle class he cares his clearest predilection is for big business billionaires and right along with his sycophant VP Michael Pence 45 has a **prepossession** against basic common sense about reality and truth in news coverage he cares less his pronounced **prejudice** against the media is mindless **bias** towards buddy Steve Bannon on his Top Ten list Bannon, big boss of Brightfart, is a Stalinist syncretist as 45 tweets and flips his figurative middle finger bird General M. Flynn is flipping many the damaging word.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Drier air has filtered into the area and partly cloudy skies will prevail today and tonight. Models show a shear line remnant pushing down from the north and bringing mostly cloudy skies to the Marianas Tuesday and Tuesday night. Despite the clouds, deep layer moisture will be lacking so showers will remain isolated. No large scale weather systems are expected to directly impact the Marianas and as a result only partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are expected through the remainder of the coming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy		86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy		85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm		85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm		84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm		84° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm		84° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy		85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy		73° / 64°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy		46° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy		46° / 23°
Honolulu	Showers		81° / 67°
London	Showers		48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Sunny		59° / 42°
Manila	Partly Cloudy		91° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy		86° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy		80° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy		66° / 54°
Osaka	Showers		45° / 34°
Paris	Showers		45° / 30°
Busan	Partly Cloudy		46° / 30°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy		52° / 37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy		79° / 63°
San Francisco	Sunny		50° / 38°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy		39° / 21°
Tokyo	Cloudy		46° / 34°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy		51° / 49°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
4:26 AM	LOW TIDE	0.25
10:43 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.92
5:10 PM	LOW TIDE	0.56
10:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.69

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:32 am	10:04 pm	-
Wednesday	10:15 am	10:58 pm	-
Thursday	11:00 am	11:54 pm	-
Friday	11:48 am	-	-
Saturday	-	12:52 am	12:40 pm

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 4							

Law enforcers learn how to deal with an active shooter

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty officers were recently trained on how to deal with an active shooting incident like what recently happened at a Florida school.

The officers, coming from different law enforcement agencies in the CNMI, went through a five-day training led by Tony Grano, reportedly one of the country's most sought-after instructor trainers for counter terrorism, military combative, police arrest, and control tactics.

Grano, founder of Controlled F.O.R.C.E. Training Management Systems in Chicago, led the "first official response in a critical environment force course" training, along with instructor Nick Cassiano at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

During the last day of the training last Friday, Grano said the training is to develop instructors' skills, which they can later cascade to other officers.

Grano said they teach participants how to use force on non-compliant subjects, which means that a person wants to fight because he does not want to comply with an order.

Participants were also taught, among other things, self defense, dealing with an aggressive attack, and understanding about the level of force to be applied.

Grano said first responders should always be prepared on how to deal with active shooting incident like the

recent shooting at a Florida high school.

"Once you receive a call about an active shooter, the objective is not to go and find the shooter, kill the shooter, or discharge the shooter. The objective is to save as many lives as we possibly can," he said.

First responders should make good decisions in a short period of time, he said.

"Make a decision quickly, because the right decision will save a lot of lives. That's why we are focused on decision-making, thinking, and applying," he said.

Fire and Emergency Management Services Commissioner Claudio K. Norita said they sent a couple of their instructors to attend the training.

"We reached out to this company and we talked to all the various law enforcement agencies in the CNMI and we measure as to what level they've got with regards to instructors. Basically, it's zero," Norita said.

Aside from DFEMS, the participants are from the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI Marshal Service, and others.

Norita said they are trying to implement uniforms standards in all basic training.

The 40-hour course will not make the participants super instructors, Norita said, but the foundation is set. At the same time, it is economical for the CNMI to invite trainers to come here.

"As you can see, two instructors can certify 20 instructors. If you send two



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Twenty law enforcers in the CNMI undergo a five-day training on "first official response in a critical environment force course" conducted by the Chicago-based Controlled F.O.R.C.E. at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The training included how to deal with an active shooter, like what recently happened at a Florida high school.

guys to the [United S]tates, it's going to cost \$20,000 in grants," he said. "We want to train with the same set of

music and same operations and standards."

With the training, once marshals, police officers, or ports

officers all arrive at the scene of an incident, they all know what to do, Norita said.

"We are trained on the same



COURTESY CALL

Philippine vice consul to Guam Alex O. Vallespin, third from left, who was joined by Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago, second from right, and other members of the Filipino community on Saipan, pays a courtesy call on Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres last Feb. 15 on Capitol Hill.

Pika Festival credited to Helen Fleming Ikehara

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

TINIAN—The 14th Annual *Pika* Festival celebrated the life of festival originator Helen Fleming Ikehara.

Ikehara was responsible for bringing to life the *Pika* Festival that, for years, has brought together people from all over Micronesia.

According to Tinian Mayor or Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Ikehara passed away about three weeks before this year's festival due to cancer. She was approximately over 60 years old.

San Nicolas said that the festival would not be what it is today if it was not for Ikehara's idea 14 years ago.

Ikehara is survived by her daughter, Leilani Ikehara, who was present at the two-day festival.

Leilani Ikehara said she

would continue to participate in the event in honor of her mother. "She started this 14 years ago so I am here to participate. I am finally here, I made it and be out here to celebrate it with everyone," she said.

Leilani Ikehara said that what her mother started is amazing because it has now become one of Tinian's most visited festivals.

"It is pretty amazing. She started something [that now] involves everyone and have everyone come together and show what they've got...show some pride," she said.

According to Leilani Ikehara, it was heartwarming to see that the tradition has remained the same for so many years.

"I am really glad that everyone is still carrying out the same traditions she started of bringing everyone together," she said.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law over the weekend a bill that amends the fiscal year 2018 budget to accommodate several of the Commonwealth government's agencies as well as provide funding allocations for a trades institute.

Authored by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Public Law 20-41 amends Public Law 20-11, or the budget law for fiscal year 2018, to reflect the expenditures stated in the amended expenditure report submitted by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

CUC, being a semi-au-

tonomous agency, does not directly receive funding support from the CNMI government. The corporation relies mostly on revenues generated by ratepayers, and every fiscal year submits a proposed budget on how they plan to spend the money.

However, due to the corporation inadvertently omitting several key expenditures from their proposal, the corporation requested the CNMI Legislature to amend the budget law for fiscal year 2018.

P.L. 20-41 bumps up the fiscal year 2018 budget for CUC to over \$121.4 million, which was originally just over \$70.9 million.

Demapan's legislation unanimously passed the House with no amendments.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said in a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune* that the costs that were inadvertently omitted included several "key components" such as the purchase of fuel, engine maintenance, and the purchase of oil, which are all "critical to [CUC] programs."

The Senate later amended Demapan's bill to allocate funding for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as well as the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

A new section in P.L. 20-11 was amended to reflect allo-

of set of music, same policy procedure," he said, adding it makes for better and efficient law enforcers.

Doing things differently makes it problematic at the scene in a situation. "So this is uniformity. All of the CNMI law enforcement agencies are represented here," Norita said.

He said the objective is to train every single law enforcers but at the same time they need to start with the instructors. "It's a multiplier effect and brings the same message out to all our law enforcement agencies."

Firefighter 2 John San Nicolas, who is assigned with DFEMS enforcement division, said the training is an eye-opener as it's his first time to attend this kind of training. "I'm learning techniques," he said as he cited, among other things, how they were trained to make a proper arrest.

Pika Festival credited to Helen Fleming Ikehara

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
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cating CHCC with \$200,000 for its Diabetes Care and Control Center as well as allocating at least \$1 million from the CW Worker fee funds, which is now administered by the CNMI Scholarship Office, to NMTI.

NMTI executive director Agnes McPhetres told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that since Torres designated the administration of CW fee funds to the Commonwealth Scholarship Office for fiscal year 2018, the office allocated about \$500,000 to the lone trades school in the CNMI, causing the institution to be at risk of closing classes due to the lack of funding to support the extra manpower they hired in between semesters.

District 204 Lion's Club Health Fair



Lion's Club district governor Arturo Navarro, left, poses for a photo with former club governors Eli Arago, center, and Goring Duenas during the district's annual health fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Lion's Club District 204 members distribute free eyeglasses during the club's annual health fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Representatives of the Marianas Medical Center pose for a photo during the Lion's Club District 204 Annual Health Fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Representatives of the Commonwealth Cancer Association pose for a photo during the Lion's Club District 204 Annual Health Fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



TanHoldings representatives volunteer their services during the Lion's Club District 204 Annual Health Fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Representatives of Hardt Eye Clinic volunteer their services during the Lion's Club District 204 Annual Health Fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Nurses from the Northern Marianas College volunteer their services during the Lion's Club District 204 Annual Health Fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Over 200 community members gather at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11 to avail of the services offered during the Lion's Club District 204 Annual Health Fair.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Lion's Club District 204 members pose for a photo during the club's annual health fair at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Daidai Social Hall last Feb. 11.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Guam judge assigned to handle Taisague lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Chief judges Ramona V. Manglona and Frances Tydingco-Gatewood have assigned to a magistrate judge in Guam the lawsuit filed by Jesus I. Taisague, who had questioned the constitutionality of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action against the Retirement Fund and others.

Manglona, the chief judge for the U.S. District Court for the NMI, and Tydingco-Gatewood, the chief judge for the U.S. District Court for Guam, agreed that a Guam judge shall be assigned for the duration of Taisague's lawsuit, and for any additional time required to complete any related business, and to perform settlement duties in the case.

Manglona and Tydingco-

Gatewood have determined that recusal of all local federal judges from Taisague's case has created an "emergency," requiring temporary assignment of a magistrate judge from the District of Guam to the District Court for the NMI.

Tydingco-Gatewood has been designated to preside over Taisague's case by a court order dated Oct. 29, 2013.

Taisague filed the lawsuit in 2013 against then-governor Eloy S. Inos, the CNMI government, Department of Finance, and the Retirement Fund for entering into a settlement agreement with Johnson that, according to him, is unconstitutional and illegal.

Taisague filed the case through counsel Ramon Quichocho, who is now a disbarred lawyer.

In December 2013, Tydingco-Gatewood denied Taisague's motion that seeks an order enjoining Inos and the CNMI government from withholding or failing to pay 100 percent of his pension benefits.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that, unlike a wrongfully terminated employee, whose injury is the loss of all income and health insurance, Taisa-

gue's injury is the deferment of no more than 25 percent of his income (pension payments)—without any loss of his health insurance coverage.

The judge noted that Taisague has not demonstrated why this 25 percent deferment is an irreparable injury.

Taisague was among the 16 persons who opted out of the Johnson settlement agreement. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Apatang wants exemptions for vendor permitting

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang wants to discuss exemptions to the current permitting rules and regulations because the current permitting process has become a barrier for food vendors to participate in community events like last weekend's Lunar New Year Party.

During the Lunar New Year Party committee conference, it was discussed that vendors interested in participating in the two-day event were hesitant because even if a vendor or business already holds a valid sanitation permit and fire permit, the Division of Public Health requires separate licenses for separate events.

"The problem is, these businesses can't take their permits and use them for a temporary basis for other locations...it should be general," said Apatang.

The Saipan mayor said there is not much he can do because every agency has its own set of rules and regulations but what he intends to do is appeal to the Legislature to consider making exemptions for specific events.

"Every department has its own policy and regula-

tion and fees. It is up to the Legislature to take a look at that and maybe regulate and make exemptions," he said. "I will be bringing this up to the Legislature."

Apatang said it is not fair to restaurant owners, for example, because they already have complete, valid documents and would need to acquire whole new permits for a mere two-day event.

"We would like to ask them to look into that because if it is a two-day event, vendors are hesitating to come out to participate because it is very costly for them to get [additional permits], even if they are operating a restaurant already," he said.

Apatang said he understands that this should apply to longer festivities but to apply the same rules to events that would not take long is quite costly.

"I can understand for Liberation Day...because that is two to three weeks, so we have to protect the vendors...but this is only for two nights and you have to pay so much for fire and everything else," he said.

The issue has been on going for vendors interested in participating similar short-term events.

HEALTHY HEART WALK

Saipan International School held its 23rd Healthy Heart Walk last Friday on the Beach Road Pathway. According to SIS headmaster Ron Snyder, the SIS Healthy Heart Walk is an annual event that they do right around Valentine's Day, participated by students from Kindergarten to high school. "It's just a 5K fun run or walk. It's a great way of exercising as the whole school comes out and we do it along the Beach Road Pathway every year. There are raffles [and] games. We play Frisbee or Hula Hoops, some ball games and just finish the day as a community."

BEA CABRERA

Bordallo underscores Guam labor crisis with CODEL

HAGĀTÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) met with a visiting congressional delegation, or CODEL, yesterday and underscored with the team the territory's workforce challenges.

The delegation is led by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. The delegation also included Reps. Blake Farenhold (R-TX), Ted Yoho (R-FL), Jason Smith (R-MI), Hank Johnson (D-GA), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), and Pramila Jayapal (D-WA).

While in Guam, the delegation reviewed Guam's labor issues and the region's defense readiness and met with Bordallo and military leaders.

Bordallo underscored Guam's civilian labor shortages. She impressed on her colleagues that while her provision in the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act was a step in the right direction for military and civilian construction projects associated with the Marine relocation, a broader solution is necessary to meet Guam's civilian labor demands.



Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) of the House Judiciary Committee speaks during the CODEL's briefing with Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) and military leaders yesterday at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Goodlatte committed to working with Bordallo to implement a legislative solution for Guam's unique challenges this Congress.

"I thank Chairman Goodlatte and my House colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for coming to Guam to learn firsthand about our unique workforce issues and the security

needs in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. While my provision enacted in last year's defense bill provides some relief for civilian and military construction projects associated with the buildup, we need additional legislation for civilian workers not related to the Marine relocation. I impressed on my colleagues the impacts the labor shortage is having on everyday life [in] Guam, and I appreciate [Goodlatte's] commitment to work with me on a legislative solution this Congress. The CODEL members understand our unique situation as we deal with this skilled labor crisis, and the chairman assured me that he is committed to finding a permanent solution." (PR)

Business

AFTER RUSSIAN MEDDLING Facebook to verify ads with postcards

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP)—Facebook will soon rely on centuries-old technology to try to prevent foreign meddling in U.S. elections: the post office.

Baffled in 2016 by Russian agents who bought ads to sway the U.S. presidential campaign, Facebook's global politics and government outreach director, Katie Harbath, told a meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State in Washington on Saturday that the company would send postcards to potential buyers of political ads to confirm they reside in the U.S.

The recipient would then have to enter a code in Facebook to continue buying the ad. The method will first apply to ads that name candidates ahead of the midterm elections in November, said Facebook spokesman Andy Stone.

The plan was unveiled a day



In this Jan. 15, 2014, file photo, Maria Contreras-Sweet, founder and board chairman of a Latino-owned community bank in Los Angeles, listens as President Barack Obama announces he will nominate her to head of the Small Business Administration in Washington. AP

after special counsel Robert Mueller charged 13 Russians with interfering in the presidential election. Mueller's indictment described how Russian agents stole social security numbers and other information from real Ameri-

cans and used them to create bank and PayPal accounts in order to buy online ads. Agents also recruited Americans to do things such as hold up signs at rallies organized to create content for Russian-created social media posts.

Office spat devolves into childish antics

Q: I share a cubicle with an extremely irritating co-worker. When I'm on the phone with customers, "Shelly" frequently interrupts my conversation with corrections. I finally had enough of this and stopped speaking to her. Shelly retaliated by putting a sign on her computer saying "She won't talk to me," with an arrow pointing at my desk.

Last week, Shelly and I had a nasty argument after she interrupted another call. When I told her to back off and mind her own business, she called me an ugly name and said I was impossible to work with. This happened in front of several other coworkers.

No matter what I do, Shelly seems determined to embarrass me. Giving her the cold shoulder didn't work, and fighting hasn't helped. Should I ask management to get involved?

A: These petty little squabbles are just so tiresome. One would hope that mature adults with responsible jobs would have abandoned such childish antics, but that is obviously not the case.

I will grant you that Shelly sounds like an intrusive busybody. However, your response to her meddling has only served to escalate the conflict. So let's take a moment to explore your contribution to this ongoing office drama.

While your passive-aggres-

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



review. Although I believe I have done an outstanding job, my duties are basically the same every year. With no specific accomplishments, how can I show the quality of my work?

A: Keep in mind that the same tasks can be completed with varying levels of initiative, creativity, helpfulness and attention to detail. So the key is to differentiate your own outstanding work from that of an average performer.

For example: "Shelly, I would really like to resolve our differences and improve our working relationship. If we can agree that you won't interrupt my calls, I will be glad to hear your opinions when I get off the phone. And if I ever provide inaccurate information, I will certainly correct it."

If Shelly complies, just listen to her comments without arguing or debating, and then thank her for the feedback.

But should she continue to interrupt, ignore her completely. When her criticism fails to produce a reaction, she will eventually stop.

Q: Everyone in our company has been asked to write a self-appraisal as part of their performance

Nation

Survivors of deadly school shooting lash out at Trump

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP)—Students who escaped the deadly school shooting in Florida focused their anger Sunday at President Donald Trump, contending that his response to the attack has been needlessly divisive.

"You're the president. You're supposed to bring this nation together, not divide us," said David Hogg, a 17-year-old student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"How dare you," he added.

Hogg was responding to Trump's tweet Saturday that Democrats hadn't passed any gun control measures during the brief time they controlled Congress with a supermajority in the Senate. Trump also alluded to the FBI's failure to act on tips that the suspect was dangerous, while bemoaning the bureau's focus on Russia's role in the 2016 election.

Trump was at his Florida estate Sunday but did not mention the attack in a series of tweets. After more than a day of criticism from the students, the White House said the president would hold a "listening session" with unspecified stu-

dents on Wednesday and meet with state and local security officials Thursday.

Florida politicians, meanwhile, scrambled to produce legislation in response to the Feb. 14 attack that killed 17 people. Nikolas Cruz, a 19-year-old who had been expelled from the school, is being held without bail in the Broward County Jail, accused of 17 counts of first-degree murder.

In a TV interview, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio embraced a Democratic bill in the Florida legislature to allow courts to temporarily prevent people from having guns if they are determined to be a threat to themselves or others.

Gov. Rick Scott, also a Republican, attended a prayer vigil at the First Church Coral Springs, a few blocks from the shooting site. He is expected to announce a legislative package with GOP leaders of the legislature this week.

Emma Gonzalez, another student who survived the attack, cited Trump, Rubio and Scott by name in a warning to politicians who are supported by the National Rifle Association.

For school shooting suspect, main question is life or death

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—The evidence against the Florida school shooting suspect is so overwhelming, the only question left for the courts if he is convicted is whether he will be sentenced to death or spend the rest of his life in prison.

The fate of 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, who faces 17 counts of first-degree murder in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, will depend on his mental state and the wishes of the victims' families, which have a say in how the prosecution proceeds.

Broward County Public

Defender Howard Finkelstein, whose office is representing Cruz, said there were so many warning signs that Cruz was mentally unstable and potentially violent that the death penalty might be going too far. Finkelstein said Cruz would likely plead guilty if prosecutors opt not to seek the death penalty.

"Because that's what this case is about. Not, did he do it? Not, should he go free?"

Should he live or should he die," Finkelstein said. "He will never see the light of day again, nor should he. But I know personally I am very upset and angry that we all failed to spot a problem and do anything as a result."

Michael J. Satz, the state attorney for Broward County, said Saturday in an email that, "This certainly is the type of case the death penalty was designed for." He called the slayings "absolutely horrific and tragic." However, he also said his office is working with law enforcement and will announce later what penalty it plans to seek.

The prosecution will likely take years. The sheriff's office said Cruz confessed, and they have his AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, ammunition clips and video from the school. The FBI also said Friday it had gotten a call from someone close to Cruz who expressed concern that he had

"a desire to kill people" and "the potential" to conduct a school shooting.

FBI Director Christopher

"Now is the time to get on the right side of this, because this is not something that we are going to let sweep under the carpet," she said on "Meet the Press."

The students' pointed comments are the latest signs of increased pressure for gun control after the massacre.

The students have vowed to become the face of a movement for tighter firearm regulations and plan to visit the state capitol in Tallahassee this week to demand immediate action. They are also calling for anti-gun violence demonstrations in Washington and other cities March 24.

Organizers behind the Women's March, an anti-Trump and female empowerment protest, called for a 17-minute, nationwide walkout by teachers and students on March 14. The Network for Public Education, an advocacy organization for public schools, announced a day of walkouts, sit-ins and other events on school campuses April 20, the anniversary of the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado that left 12 students and one teacher dead.

Wray said in a statement

that the information was not properly investigated and promised to get to the bottom of it.

A major issue for the courts will be Cruz's mental state. Officials have said he underwent unspecified treatment at a mental facility but quit after his mother died in November. His father had died some years earlier. Without any living parents, he was taken in by a local family.

Cruz's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Melisa McNeill, told reporters after Cruz's initial court appearance that he had become unmoored from society and had no support network to lean on.

"When your brain is not fully developed, you don't know how to deal with these things," she said. "When you have the lack of impulse control that a 19-year-old has, that affects the behavior you exhibit."

McNeill also said of Cruz: "He's sad, he's mournful, he's remorseful. He's just a broken human being."

Asia

Bangladesh gives names to begin Rohingya repatriation

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A Bangladesh Cabinet minister gave a list of 8,032 Rohingya refugees to his Myanmar counterpart to begin repatriations of the Muslim minority under a November agreement between the two countries.

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said Friday the list contained the members of 1,673 Rohingya families. He did not explain how the names had been chosen.

About 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled army-led violence in Buddhist-majority Myanmar since last August and are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh. The two countries originally agreed to begin the repatriations last month, but they were delayed by concerns among aid workers and Rohingya that they would be forced to return and face unsafe conditions in Myanmar.

Hundreds of Rohingya were reportedly killed in the violence, and many houses and villages burned to the ground.

U.N. refugee chief Filippo Grandi told the Security Council on Tuesday that conditions aren't right for Rohingya to voluntarily return because Myanmar hasn't addressed their exclusion and

denial of rights. Grandi also said Rohingya are still fleeing Myanmar and thousands more are expected to leave.

Khan said he presented the list to Myanmar Home Minister Lt. Gen. Kyaw Swe, who is visiting Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, to discuss the repatriations and other border issues.

"The Myanmar side cordially accepted the list, and they sought our help to make it happen," Khan told reporters. Kyaw Swe did not speak to the reporters.

Khan said officials in Myanmar would choose 6,500 people next Tuesday to be sent back in an initial phase. He would not say exactly when the repatriation would start.

"They said they will take them all in three phases," he said. "No specific timeframe has been decided yet when they will start returning."

Khan said Bangladesh expressed its desire for safe and secure conditions and a proper infrastructure for the refugees' return. Impoverished Bangladesh has been overwhelmed by the refugee onslaught and is eager for them to return to Myanmar.

On Thursday, Kyaw Swe told Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid that Myanmar is

ready to take back displaced people, presidential spokesman Joynal Abedin said Friday.

Abedin also quoted Kyaw Swe as saying that Myanmar will implement the recommendations of a commission led by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to improve conditions in Rakhine state, where the refugees previously lived.

The recent violence erupted after an underground insurgent group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, attacked security outposts in Rakhine in late August. The military and Buddhist mobs launched retaliatory attacks on Rohingya that were termed "clearance operations."

Myanmar's security forces have been accused of atrocities against the Rohingya, including killing, rape and arson. The United Nations and the U.S. have described the army crackdown as "ethnic cleansing."

The Rohingya have long been treated as outsiders in Myanmar, even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. They are denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

a Philippine visit.

Family grieves PH maid found dead in Kuwait freezer

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The body of a Filipino housemaid found stuffed in a freezer in an abandoned apartment in Kuwait was flown home to her grieving family Friday, as attention focused on the plight of millions of mostly poor Filipinos toiling abroad. As Joanna Daniela Demafelis' remains were wheeled to the Manila airport's cargo bay, her sister broke into tears and embraced the casket before being pulled back and consoled. A brother wept quietly, speechless and overwhelmed by emotion. "I hope my sister will be given justice," Demafelis' brother, Jojit Demafelis, later told reporters. Demafelis' body was found Feb. 6 in a Kuwait City apartment that had reportedly been abandoned for more than a year. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said her body bore torture marks and there were indications she was strangled.

Duterte offers kill bounty for rebels to save on war costs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president offered a nearly \$500 bounty for each communist rebel killed by government forces to save on anti-insurgency costs and said insurgents are easier to hit than birds because they have bigger heads. President Rodrigo Duterte's latest crass remarks, which the government issued to reporters late Wednesday, came after human rights groups condemned him this week for saying troops should shoot female communist guerrillas in the genitals to render them "useless." "You kill an NPA today and I'll pay you 25,000" pesos, Duterte said in a speech at an air base in central Cebu city, referring to New People's Army guerrillas. "I was computing that if this drags on for four years ... it'll be very expensive because it's war. If I'll just pay 25,000 for a life, I can save about 47 percent," he said to laughter from the crowd.

World

All 65 aboard plane feared dead in southern Iran crash

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An Iranian airplane brought back into service only months ago after being grounded for seven years crashed Sunday in a foggy, mountainous region of southern Iran, and officials feared all 65 people on board were killed.

The crash of the Aseman Airlines ATR-72 was yet another fatal aviation disaster for Iran, which for years was barred from buying necessary airplane parts due to Western sanctions over its contested nuclear program.

Its nuclear accord with world powers allows it to get those parts and the country has made deals worth tens of billions of dollars for new aircraft. However, President Donald Trump's refusal to recertify the deal has injected uncertainty into those sales while Iranians still fly in aging aircraft.

The ATR-72, a twin-engine turboprop used for short-distance regional flying, went down near its destination of the southern city of Yasuj, some 780 kilometers (485 miles) south of the capital, Tehran, where it took off.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, although weather was severe. Dense fog, high winds and heavy snow in the Za-



In this photo provided by Tasnim News Agency, family members of a plane crash victims weep in the village of Bideh, at the area that the plane crashed, southern Iran, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018.

gros Mountains made it impossible for rescue crews in helicopters to reach the site, state television reported.

Aseman Airlines spokesman Mohammad Taghi Tabatabai told state TV that all on board Flight EP3704 were killed. It had 59 passengers and six crew members, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday night, lowering the toll to 65 from an initially reported 66.

"After searching the area, we learned that unfortunately ... our dear passengers had lost their lives," Tabatabai said.

Both Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani offered their condolences.

Tabatabai said the plane crashed into Mount Dena, which is about 4,400 meters (14,435 feet) tall. The plane's last signal, at 0555 GMT (12:35 a.m. EST), showed it at 16,975 feet and descending, according to airplane-tracking website FlightRadar24. The pilot was in contact with the tower 14 miles from the airport, state TV said.

One previous passenger on the route posted a video Sunday showing that the flight typically comes in just over the mountain peaks. Aeronautical charts for the airport warn pilots to keep an altitude of 15,000 feet in the area. The airport itself is at nearly 6,000 feet.

West Africa's extremism spreading as thousands flee homes

O U A G A D O U G O U , Burkina Faso (AP)—West Africa's extremist threat has moved into a new part of the vast Sahel region, with a previously calm area of Burkina Faso facing the kinds of assaults that have forced thousands elsewhere to flee over the past year.

Last week a police station was attacked by about 10 people in the eastern town of Natiaboani, killing one officer and wounding at least two others, according to governor Ousmane Traore. Some 470 ammunition cartridges were found at the scene, he said.

None of the several extremist groups roaming the region has claimed responsibility for the attack about 280 kilometers (174 miles) from the capital, Ouagadougou, which in recent years has been alerted to the jihadist threat by deadly attacks on high-profile hotels and cafes.

Burkina Faso now finds itself joining the front line of

a growing regional war on extremism waged by a variety of actors, from France's largest overseas military operation to a new five-country West African force backed by millions of dollars from the United States, wealthy Gulf nations and others.

But the landlocked, impoverished country has few resources for its own defense.

In a telling incident in the past week, some 20 policemen abandoned their station at Deou in Burkina Faso's north to protest a lack of equipment, such as helmets and bulletproof jackets, to fight extremists.

The deputy mayor, Moussa Sawadogo, said police also lacked gas to patrol the area in vehicles. The problem is shared by other security agents who say they don't feel prepared to take on jihadists.

"The terrorism and criminal economy threatening the region vastly overwhelm the capacity of any individual

country or region to adequately respond," African Union Commission chair Moussa Faki Mahamat told the Munich Security conference on Saturday, saying the challenge needs a global solution.

Burkina Faso's northern Soum province is home to radicalized preacher Ibrahim Malam Dicko, who has vowed to close all government administration there. His armed supporters have forced schools to close in several rural areas.

But Dicko is not the only threat. Northern areas near the border with Mali have been a regular target of attacks by various extremist groups, some of them vowing to step up deadly assaults in response to the recent deployment of the regional G5 Sahel force. The 5,000-strong force combines troops from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Chad and Mauritania, with France leading the efforts to bring in international funding.

Focus

'I feel trapped': Violence fuels fear among Myanmar Muslims

By FOSTER KLUG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—For four straight days last month, Rahim Muddinn watched, amazed, as Myanmar's state-run newspapers published special supplements showing Rohingya Muslims accused of being terrorists—nearly 250 photos each day.

For the 41-year-old Rohingya man, it was a surreal moment. He was born and raised in Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city and far from the western state of Rakhine, where bloody military operations that followed Rohingya militant attacks in August have driven nearly 700,000 Rohingya into refugee camps in Bangladesh.

"When we first saw those pictures, we started laughing. We wondered: When will it be our turn to have our pictures in the paper?" Muddinn, a teacher, said in an interview in his Yangon home.

Behind the laughter, though, there is genuine fear.

The pictures are the latest in a series of chilling realizations for the Rohingya minority here. Though Yangon's tree-lined boulevards and weathered colonial architecture seem a world away from the rice paddies and isolated villages of Rakhine—let alone the tarp-walled huts of the teeming refugee camps—the government is increasingly linking Rohingya across the country with what it calls a terrorist threat, Muddinn and others say.

Rohingya in Yangon describe a sense of rising persecution and hatred, of vanishing freedoms and opportunities, of Buddhist neighbors and friends suddenly more willing to publicly express sympathies with the military's destruction of Rohingya villages in Rakhine.

"One day it really could be my picture in the paper," said Muddinn. Like most of the other Rohingya who spoke with The Associated Press, he used his Rohingya name because of safety worries. "I do have anxiety. The government can detain anyone it says is a supporter of terrorism or anyone viewed as a threat to the state."

Though Rohingya have always been persecuted in the country, it got much worse after 2012, when violence in Rakhine killed hundreds and drove about 140,000 people, most of them Rohingya, from their homes to camps. Violence flared again in



In this Jan. 29, 2018, photo, Myanmar Muslim men pray at a mosque in Yangon, Myanmar. AP

2016 and, most dramatically, following the August attacks, when refugees report widespread killing and rape by Myanmar forces. The AP last month confirmed, through extensive interviews with survivors and time-stamped video, a massacre and at least five mass graves, all previously unreported, in the Rakhine village of Gu Dar Pyin.

Many Rohingya have been in Myanmar for generations, but, increasingly, the government and media have played up their claim that they're not citizens but "illegal Bengali interlopers" who entered Myanmar from Bangladesh with the help of corrupt immigration officers.

There are non-Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, and they often report rising discrimination, especially those in Rakhine. But generally their situation is less precarious than the Rohingya.

Myanmar's government denies discriminating against Rohingya and other Muslims.

"It's totally not true that Muslims in the cities like Yangon have no freedom of movement or lack the same rights as other populations," said Aung San Win, director general of Myanmar's Ministry of Religion. "Everyone is granted rights to freedom by the constitution, including Muslims. There is no discrimination in the country."

In Yangon, however, hate speech against Rohingya has risen, and Buddhists who

were once friends and colleagues now shun Muddinn's family. Muddinn believes the government is now trying to portray all Rohingya as terrorists.

When he hears a motorcycle rev its engines near his home after midnight, he wonders if a policeman is coming to detain him. His wife, Amina, hasn't left their home by herself since 2012 because of shame and fear after a Buddhist spit on her.

Why did it happen? Because she was wearing a burqa. ■■■■

Not far away, Kyaw Min, a well-known Rohingya activist and president of the Democracy and Human Rights Party, brandishes the newspaper photos of alleged terrorists.

The government, he said in his party headquarters, is trying to make it so that nearly every Rohingya family in Rakhine state will be associated with an accused terrorist if the refugees in Bangladesh ever return to Myanmar.

Safety is a worry even in Yangon. He said he no longer leaves his home at night or travels alone around the city. Some party members have been attacked, and he has suffered intense abuse on social media, with people calling him "rubbish" and an "interloper from Bangladesh."

Early last year, a gunman killed Ko Ni, a prominent member of Myanmar's Muslim minority and a legal adviser for the ruling National

League for Democracy party. He was shot in the head at the Yangon airport.

Ko Ni, who wasn't Rohingya, had criticized the NLD in 2015 for not putting up Muslim candidates in the general election.

Since August, abuse has intensified, and Rohingya leaders risk their safety if they speak out publicly. "We feel this everywhere," said Kyaw Min, who spent years in prison on what he calls politically motivated charges.

Though most Rohingya worry less about their political future and more about putting food on their plates, the sense of discrimination and persecution is a heavy burden. All of them, says Kyaw Min, "will have some sort of scar in their hearts." ■■■■

"The word 'Rohingya' is a dangerous thing to be called in this country," said Ajas, 26, a college student in Yangon, who, like some other Rohingya, uses only a single name. "The government has brainwashed the whole country into thinking that we are illegal immigrants."

Few local NGOs or Buddhist activists will stand up for the Rohingya, but Ajas said he and others are trying to talk with liberal Buddhists and other "moderate minds."

Still, he is the only Rohingya in his class and sometimes has problems with Buddhists when he describes himself as Rohingya. "They don't accept that word because they say

there is no such thing as that concept in this country."

Like many Rohingya in Yangon, Mohammad Warris, another college student, usually keeps his national ID card in a safe at home. The cards, which are used to apply for school, to set up bank accounts and to get passports, are irreplaceable without a huge bribe, he said, because Myanmar has long tried to take them from Rohingya as a way to more easily strip them of citizenship.

"If I didn't have this, I wouldn't be able to survive. I could be caught by the police and jailed as a 'Bengali terrorist,'" Warris, 24, said.

"They are hated by the mass of Burmese because they simply exist," a 20-year-old student at the University of Yangon says of the Rohingya during an interview in an empty classroom, ceiling fans whirring overhead.

Though the student, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of safety worries, is a rare example of a Buddhist at the school willing to regularly defend the Rohingya, he won't do it on the streets.

"It's too precarious," he said. "If I say 'genocide' in public, the government would put me in jail for years."

Buddhists at the university have accused the student, whose parents are Buddhists from Rakhine, of having Rohingya blood and of taking money from foreign governments and NGOs. A nation-

alist friend told him he had informed on him to police for insulting Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi and said he would be sued. "He said, 'You're destroying your own country by sympathizing with terrorists.'"

He still speaks up in class to defend the Rohingya, but he doesn't describe himself as an activist anymore and has focused lately on his studies. "I can do better work (for the Rohingya) as a researcher than if I was in jail."

■■■■

One day last year, Muddinn sat with some friends sipping tea at a cafe in his neighborhood when the Buddhist driver of a bicycle rickshaw smashed purposely into the side of a car driven by a Muslim man. It was not the first time the neighbors had seen this Buddhist slam into Muslim cars.

The Buddhist got off his bicycle, screaming insults at the Muslim and trying to punch him.

"I was really furious," Muddinn said. But he did nothing, even though he describes himself as short-tempered. "Even if we're the victims," he said, "the police will see us as the perpetrators because we're Muslim."

"I feel trapped," Muddinn said. "There is no guarantee for our future. I want to stay in this country forever, but now my faith is shaken and I wonder if I will have to move away."

Overdrive

Review: Golf SportWagen offers a sportier alternative to some small crossovers

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Since its introduction in 2015 replacing the Jetta wagon, the Volkswagen Golf SportWagen, billed as a "sportier alternative to compact SUVs," has been a top choice for buyers who want a nimble, fun-to-drive vehicle with lots of space, versatility, comfort, and performance.

The Golf SportWagen is also beautifully designed. The appearance is basically unchanged for 2018, with new LED taillights and daytime running lights on the base S trim, and automatic rain-sensing headlights, along with automatic rain-sensing wipers. All Golf models have newly-designed LED Daytime Running Lights and striking LED tailights.

Inside, the SportWagen has a few mild changes, most noticeably a new standard 6.5-inch Composition Color infotainment system, replacing the five-inch system on the S model. A new, larger MIB II touch-screen infotainment system is available on all trims up to eight inches.

An added value change for 2018 is a new People First Warranty, a six-year, 72,000-mile warranty, replacing the previous three-year limited warranty. The new warranty can be transferred to subsequent owners throughout its duration.

SportWagen is available in S, SE, and SEL trims, with pricing from \$21,685 for the S model with front-wheel drive and a five-speed manual transmission (six-speed automatic transmission adds \$1,100) to \$30,245 for an SEL with six-speed automatic.

An S 4Motion with a six-speed manual transmission is \$23,935, with a six-speed automatic transmission it is \$25,035. The 4Motion system directs power to the front wheels until slip is detected, then sends as much as 50 percent to the rear wheels.

Under the hood, the SportWagen has a 1.8-liter, 170-horsepower turbocharged inline four-cylinder engine. The EPA estimates front-drive SportWagens with a five-speed manual will achieve 25 mpg city/35 highway.

The SportWagen is internationally recognized as a Volkswagen, with the unmistakable DNA of the Golf, while displaying distinctive elements of its own – a "D" pillar, roof rails and a unique rear design.

For this review, I drove a Reflex Silver Metallic SportWagen S with Titan Black textured cloth seating with



Volkswagen's 2018 Golf SportWagen is a beautifully designed, nimble, fun-to-drive vehicle with lots of space, versatility, comfort, and performance. AP

contrast stitching. The interior was trimmed with brushed metallic on the door panels, glossy gray on the dash and center stack/console, and piano-black on the steering wheel, shifter knob (five-speed manual transmission), and parking brake handle. Knitted cloth covered the door panels and felted cloth lined the door pockets.

Eight exterior colors are offered, including captivating Night Blue Metallic, Elegant Silk Blue Metallic and brawny Tungsten Silver Metallic. Interiors come in Titan or Beige cloth for S and S 4Motion; Titan or Beige V-Tex Leatherette, or Quartz Gray/Titan Sport leatherette for SE and SEL, depending on model and/or exterior color chosen.

The hood slopes down into the front fenders and has deep creases from the upper grille to the "A" pillars. The updated front grille freshens the front with upper and lower chrome trim.

In addition to new taillights there is a wide rear window and a wide, low tailgate that integrates the license plate. Black roof rails add to versatility, with a place to haul bikes, sports equipment, skis, or luggage.

A load height of 24.8 inches and an opening of 40.6 inches make the SportWagen very functional for weekend adventures or daily hauling of kids to school and/or practice.

The SportWagen is 179.6 inches long and 70.8 inches wide, ensuring sporty proportions and aerodynamic performance.

The front wheels sit forward, for a premium "cab backward" appearance. Styling and updated proportions help achieve a lower visual center of gravity and more dynamic stance.

Wheel size and style varies according to model – my S had 15-inch "Lyon" silver-painted aluminum-alloy wheels with 10 spokes, alternating thin and straight with thick and carved.

Cargo volume is on par with compact SUVs, and passenger volume is increased due to the wagon body style. With the 60/40 rear seats up, cargo space is 30.4 cubic feet, increasing to 66.5 cubic feet with the seats fully folded. Release levers in the cargo area are convenient for quick folding.

Front passengers have 41.2 inches of legroom, while rear passengers have 35.6 inches. Headroom is 38.6 inches for both rows, and total passenger volume is 94.3 cubic feet.

Controls are positioned for optimum ergonomics and usability, with the center stack angled toward the driver, a feature often seen in premium luxury or performance vehicles.

Seat position, shifter height, and spacing between the pedals are refined for maximum driver comfort. A leather-wrapped steering wheel and shifter knob, along with white backlighting for the controls and soft-touch plastics highlight the upscale ambience of the interior.

The MIB II infotainment system, the foundation for VW's Car-Net connected vehicle services, is standard across the SportWagen line, and also offers one of the most comprehensive suites of connected vehicle services and features in the industry. Introduced in VWs in 2015, MIB was updated in 2016.

MIB stands for "Modular Infotainment Platform," and this is the second generation of the system, with changes including larger, more responsive touch screens with better graphics. My SportWagen S had a 6.5-inch screen with a capacitive surface with proximity sensors and swipe controls, requiring less pressure to operate.

A Composition Color unit offers an SD card interface, rearview camera and stan-

dard Bluetooth technology. Together the units offer one USB port, a JPEG viewer, satellite radio, HD radio and Free Lossless Audio Codec, and have the ability to send and receive SMS text messages, pairing two phones at once.

Volkswagen Car-Net features are divided into three areas: App-Connect, Security & Service, and Guide & Inform. App-Connect smartphone integration is standard, allowing the user to run select apps on the vehicle's display through Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and MirrorLink.

A Security & Service subscription helps locate your parked vehicle, check if the doors are locked, make emergency calls, receive vehicle health reports, and more.

The Guide & Inform subscription includes navigation, weather reports, traffic updates, fuel prices and locations, sports scores, and more.

My SportWagen didn't have integrated navigation, but it wasn't a problem as I could use the app on my phone or Car-Net Guide & Inform.

The SportWagen comes with both passive and active safety systems, meeting or exceeding all current crash regulations, including Electronic Stability Control, Automatic Post-Collision Braking System, and Intelligent Crash Response System.

Post-collision braking applies the brakes when the air-bag sensors detect a primary collision, thus reducing the possibility of additional damage from subsequent collisions.

Intelligent Crash Response shuts off the fuel pump, unlocks the doors and switches on the hazard lights following certain types of collisions where air bags are deployed. SportWagen is rated by the IIHS as a Top Safety Pick.

SportWagen S offers several options for fun and convenience: Muddy Buddy Trunk Liner, \$105; CARGOTECH Blocks, \$45 for organizing items on the Muddy Buddy liner; Rear Seat Cover with an opening to the armrest/pass-through, \$105; attachment kits for a cargo box, \$1,064; bike, \$546; kayak, \$531; snowboard/skis, \$576; and many more.

My Golf SportWagen S with the manual gearbox was well-equipped, comfortable and roomy, quiet with a subtle Volkswagen rumble, attractive and well-appointed inside, and versatile enough for all my needs – people hauling, shopping trips, and antiquing.

A destination charge of \$850 brought the total delivered price to \$22,535.

UNDER THE HOOD:

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q. The speed limit in our retirement area is 25 mph. With the cruise control set or not, my new 2018 Equinox surges back and forth like it's trying to shift to a lower speed. I took it back to the dealer, and they could not find any thing wrong with it. I went for a ride with their tech rep, and he was able to duplicate it the problem. They told me there is no cure for it. I cannot drive the car like this, and I find that this problem is not only mine. The dealer people were great in trying to solve it. How can I get this fixed?

—Mr. L.P.G.

I chatted with Mr. G by phone to get a bit more information about his concern. His rather huge retirement facility has lengthy sections of 25 mph roadway and strict speed enforcement, so it's understandable he's bothered by poor drivability at this par-

Dealer can't solve Equinox' low-speed problem

synthetic oil, would I get a better gas mileage?

—Sam W.

I recommended that he drive the Equinox at the problem speed and try manually selecting a differing gear and observe any changes in symptom. Also, he might try very softly applying his left foot to the brake pedal as he continues to hold speed and check again for a change in symptom. This would cause the transmission's torque converter clutch (TCC) to release, if it were engaged. My hunch is that, to maximize fuel economy, the PCM (powertrain control module) may be engaging the TCC at a painfully low vehicle speed. The effect is similar to driving a stick shift car at too low a speed for the gear selected.

As sharp as his dealer's top gun troubleshooter may be, it would help to call Chevy's customer service folks and request a field engineer come to witness the concern. If the surge seems to be by design and enough folks complain about it, perhaps GM

Life & Style

'Three Billboards' wins, women make waves at UK film awards

LONDON (AP)—Ferocious female-led tragicomedy “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri” was the big winner Sunday at the British Academy Film Awards in London, where women demanding an end to harassment, abuse and inequality dominated the ceremony.

Martin McDonagh’s film about a bereaved mother seeking justice won five trophies including best film, outstanding British film and best actress, for Frances McDormand.

Producer Graham Broadbent said the movie is “the story of a woman taking on the establishment and status quo.”

“It seems more timely now than we could ever have imagined,” he said.

Writer-director McDonagh said it was fitting, in the year of the “Time’s Up” campaign, that “Three Billboards” is “a film about a woman who refuses to take any s(asterisk) (asterisk)(asterisk) anymore.”

“Our film is a hopeful one in lots of ways, but it’s also an angry one,” McDonagh said. “As we’ve seen this year, sometimes anger is the only way to get people to listen and to change.”

McDonagh won the original screenplay prize for “Three Billboards,” which also netted Sam Rockwell the supporting actor trophy. Allison Janney was named best supporting actress for playing ice skater

Several actresses brought

Tonya Harding’s domineering mother in “I, Tonya.”

Guillermo del Toro won the directing prize for monster fantasy “The Shape of Water,” which also took trophies for music and production design.

Gary Oldman, the favorite among bookies, won the best actor prize for playing British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in “Darkest Hour.”

The British prizes, known as BAFTAs, are considered a key indicator of likely success at Hollywood’s Oscars in two weeks’ time.

The film awards season in the United States and elsewhere has been overshadowed by the allegations of sexual harassment and abuse leveled at scores of entertainment figures since women began coming forward to accuse Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein last year.

England’s Old Vic Theatre has been rocked by allegations against former artistic director Kevin Spacey. London police are also investigating nine claims of sexual assault by Weinstein.

The red carpet and the auditorium at London’s Royal Albert Hall were a sea of black as actresses such as Lupita Nyong’o, Angelina Jolie, Jennifer Lawrence and Margot Robbie eschewed color as a statement against sexual misconduct and gender inequality.

Several actresses brought



Actress Angelina Jolie poses for photographers upon arrival at the BAFTA 2018 Awards in London, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018.

black,” she said.

On the red carpet, actress Andrea Riseborough, who brought U.K. Black Pride founder Phyll Opoku-Gyimah as her guest, said she also hoped the film industry was on the road to greater equality and diversity.

“It’s more likely we’ll see an alien onscreen than we’ll see an Asian woman at the moment, which is disgraceful,” Riseborough said.

Prince William—the British Academy’s president—and the Duchess of Cambridge were guests of honor at Sunday’s ceremony, hosted by “Absolutely Fabulous” star Joanna Lumley. Kate acknowledged the evening’s muted fashion by wearing a dark green Jenny Packham dress with black belt.

The call to wear black put Kate in a delicate position, because the royal family is careful to avoid political statements.

Ahead of the ceremony, almost 200 British women in entertainment called for an international movement to end sexual misconduct.

Kate Winslet, Emma Thompson, Naomie Harris,

Emma Watson and Gemma Arterton were among signatories to a letter saying that 2018 should be “the year that time was up on sexual harassment and abuse.”

The stars called for an end to impunity for abusers and announced a fund to support women and men battling workplace abuse, modeled on the “Time’s Up” movement in the U.S.

Former “Harry Potter” star Watson has given the fund 1 million pounds (\$1.4 million), according to its page on the Go Fund Me website.

The ceremony honored several generations of talent. Filmmaker James Ivory, 89, took the adapted screenplay prize for “Call Me By Your Name.”

The 80-year-old director Ridley Scott, whose films include “Blade Runner,” “Alien,” “Thelma and Louise” and “Gladiator,” received the academy’s highest honor, the BAFTA Fellowship.

Daniel Kaluuya, the 28-year-old British star of “Get Out,” won the rising star award and made a plea for public arts funding, which helped him get his start.

Kaluuya, who is also Oscar-nominated, joked that success meant taking Ubers rather than the subway.

“I get that Prius everywhere,” he said.

What will Meghan wear? Royal wedding dress a top UK secret

LONDON (AP)—Where does one shop for a wedding gown set to be the dress of the year—an outfit chic enough for a fashion-loving bride but suitable for a church so regal it’s the burial place of monarchs?

Everyone at London Fashion Week—and elsewhere—is dying to know.

With only three months to go before Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s May 19 wedding at Windsor Castle, both the fashion and bridal worlds are abuzz with talk of who the bride will pick to design her dress and what kind of look she would go for.

It’s no wonder: There’s not been a bigger royal wedding since Harry’s brother Prince William married Kate Middleton in 2011 in an extravaganza broadcast around the world. Seven years later, Kate’s lacey, long-sleeved Alexander McQueen gown is still influencing bridal designs today.

“It’s going to be the greatest fashion commission of 2018. There’ll be millions of eyeballs on it,” said Jade Beer, editor at the British edition of Brides magazine. “It’s her ma-

jor fashion moment.”

“She’ll definitely need an upgrade from the dress she wore for her first wedding,” Beer added, referring to the simple strapless white gown the American actress wore at her 2011 Jamaica beach wedding to film producer Trevor Engelson. The couple divorced in 2013.

While the design—as well as the designer—of the dress is a closely guarded secret, many are positive that Markle will choose a British designer.

Kate wasn’t the only bride in Britain’s extended royal family sticking with a British designer. Zara Phillips, Queen Elizabeth II’s second-eldest grandchild, wore royal couturier Stewart Parvin. In 1981, then-Lady Diana Spencer—the late mother of groom Harry—surprised many when she chose David and Elizabeth Emanuel, a pair of designers fresh out of college.

Front-runners for Markle’s choice include British-Canadian Erdem Moralioglu, known for his elegant, feminine styles; Ralph & Russo, the couture designers Markle

chose for her engagement dress; heritage fashion powerhouse Burberry; as well as McQueen and Giles Deacon, who designed the wedding gown for Kate’s sister Pippa Middleton.

Victoria Beckham has denied rumors that she’s been asked. French designer Roland Mouret has also been cited as a possible pick.

“I mean, she could surprise us all and choose a Canadian brand—she was so loyal to them while she was filming up there,” said Miles Socha, editor-in-chief at Women’s Wear Daily, referring to the time Markle spent in Toronto filming the TV series “Suits.” “But probably we would have to place our bets on a British designer.”

Some are hoping Markle will pick something less traditional because she has more leeway. After all, Harry is only fifth in line to the throne—and will be sixth after Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, gives birth to her third child in April. In addition, their wedding venue, St. George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle, is less imposing than

St. Paul’s Cathedral or Westminster Abbey in London.

“I really expect something different from her. Her style is so clean, really modern, and bridal has been so traditional in the past few years,” said London-based bridal designer Naomi Neoh. “I think—I hope—it would be clean, simple with beautiful detailing.”

Neoh hopes Markle will choose a dress that celebrates her individuality.

“Meghan’s very different from the English tradition. She’s got her career, she’s half-black,” she said. “She’s not going to be queen. It has to be respectful and appropriate of course, but it can be a bit more exciting with the cut and the lines. I think maybe a high neck, low back—that’d be demure enough.”

Still, it’s a dress that needs to live up to the grandeur of its surroundings. St. George’s Chapel is intimate only by royal proportions. It seats 800 guests and has a very important place in British history as the resting place of scores of kings and queens—including both of the queen’s parents.

WINNERS' LIST

LONDON (AP) — Winners of the 2018 British Academy Film Awards, presented Sunday:

Film — “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”

British Film — “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”

Director — Guillermo del Toro, “The Shape of Water”

Actor — Gary Oldman, “Darkest Hour”

Actress — Frances McDormand, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”

Supporting Actor — Sam Rockwell, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”

Supporting Actress — Allison Janney, “I, Tonya”

Rising Star — Daniel Kaluuya

British Debut — Writer-director Rungano Nyoni and producer Emily Morgan, “I am Not a Witch”

Original Screenplay — Martin McDonagh, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”

Adapted Screenplay — James Ivory, “Call Me By Your Name”

Film Not in the English Language — “The Handmaiden”

Music — Alexandre Desplat, “The Shape of Water”

Cinematography — Roger Deakins, “Blade Runner 2049”

Editing — Jonathan Amos, Paul Machliss, “Baby Driver”

Production Design — Paul Austerberry, Jeff Melvin, Shane Vieau, “The Shape of Water”

Costume Design — Mark Bridges, “Phantom Thread”

Sound — “Dunkirk”

Visual Effects — “Blade Runner 2049”

Makeup and Hair — David Malinowski, Ivana Primorac, Lucy Sibbick, Kazuhiro Tsuji, “Darkest Hour”

Animated Film — “Coco”

Short Film — “Cowboy Dave”

Short Animation — “Poles Apart”

Documentary — “I am Not Your Negro”

Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema — Jon Wardle, National Film and Television School

Academy Fellowship — Ridley Scott

For full coverage of awards season: <https://apnews.com/tag/AwardsSeason>

'Black Panther' blows away box office with \$192M weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—A wave of feverish anticipation, fawning critical acclaim and groundbreaking cultural meaning pushed "Black Panther" to a record-setting \$192 million debut in U.S. and Canada theaters, firmly establishing the superhero sensation as a box-office landmark.

The Marvel film from the Walt Disney Co. blew past expectations to become the fifth-highest-grossing debut ever, not adjusting for inflation, following only "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," "Jurassic World" and "The Avengers."

In estimates Sunday, Disney predicted a four-day holiday weekend of \$218 million domestically and a global debut of \$361 million.

Though the film's international footprint doesn't include several of the largest markets—China, Russia and Japan—it still ranks among

1. "Black Panther," \$192 million (\$169 million international).
2. "Peter Rabbit," \$17.3 million.
3. "Fifty Shades Freed," \$16.9 million (\$47.7 million international).
4. "Jumanji Welcome to the Jungle," \$7.9 million (\$4.8 million international).
5. "The 15:17 to Paris," \$7.7 million (\$2.8 million international).
6. "The Greatest Showman," \$5.1 million (\$9.6 million international).
7. "Early Man," \$3.2 million (\$3.7 million international).
8. "Maze Runner: The Death Cure," \$2.5 million (\$11 million international).
9. "Winchester," \$2.2 million.
10. "Samson," \$2 million.



This image released by Disney shows Danai Gurira in a scene from Marvel Studios' "Black Panther." AP

the top 15 global debuts ever. It's also the highest-grossing February opening weekend.

"All hail the King of Wakanda!" Disney declared, referring to the movie's mythical and highly advanced African nation.

Ryan Coogler's film, which cost about \$200 million to make, is the most expensive movie with a largely black ensemble and among the few to be centered on a black superhero. The strong opening suggests "Black Panther" will easily set a box-office record for films directed by a black filmmaker.

The previous best is Sidney Poitier's 1980 comedy "Stir Crazy," which took in \$322 million domestically, when inflation is calculated.

"Black Panther" set pre-sale records and saw lines around theaters over the weekend, including some who came costumed for the event.

"This is the very definition of a blockbuster: People lining

up around the block to see a great movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "A movie like 'Black Panther' is a cultural event that nothing on the small screen can really match in that way."

Chadwick Boseman stars as T'Challa/Black Panther in the first stand-alone film for the superhero created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby in 1966. The cast also features Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Daniel Kaluuya and Letitia Wright.

The movie has been hugely acclaimed, with a 97 percent fresh rating from Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences agreed, giving it an A-plus CinemaScore. The film especially resonated among African-Americans, who made up 37 percent of moviegoers, according to comScore.

Dave Hollis, distribution chief for Disney, called the film's success "a real source of pride" for Disney.

"Inclusion and representation matters," Hollis said.

"We know that great stories can come from anywhere, and our goal is to make films that reflect the wonderful diversity of our world and resonate with audiences everywhere—no matter who they are, no matter where they come from."

Coming at one of the slower periods of the year, "Black Panther" benefited from little competition, and it can be expected to dominate the marketplace for weeks.

Last week's top film, the erotic romance sequel "Fifty Shades Freed," slid to third place, with \$16.9 million in its second week for Universal. Sony's children's book adaptation "Peter Rabbit" held much stronger, taking the No. 2 spot with \$17.3 million in its second week.

But moviegoers—and Hollywood—were focused on "Black Panther," including how it would fare overseas. Though considered by most to be an outdated myth, some have claimed that foreign au-

diences have less appetite for films with largely black casts.

"Black Panther" vanquished those notions with \$169 million in ticket sales. It was No. 1 in most international markets, though "Fifty Shades Freed" bested it in Germany.

Its release in China will come later. This weekend,

the Chinese New Year holiday, local productions led by "Detective Chinatown 2" and "Monster Hunt 2" dominated Chinese theaters, with more than \$140 million in ticket sales each.

"Black Panther" also performed especially well on large-format screens. Imax reported \$30 million in ticket sales for the three-day weekend.

"There was a groundswell of wanting this movie to work, and then when it actually did as a film, itself, it just kicked it up a notch to a level no one could have ever predicted," said Greg Foster, Imax Entertainment's chief executive. "That makes me feel really good about the movie business."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final four-day domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

Drake touts giveaways, urges fans to do something nice, too

NEW YORK (AP)—Drake wants to spread the love, and he's challenging his fans to do the same.

The new video for the rap star's single, "God's Plan," announces upfront that Drake gave away the \$996,631 budget to film the clip.

He's been giving away money in Miami lately, including a \$50,000 scholarship to a University of Miami student. The video shows

him surprising other Miami residents with wads of cash and going into a supermarket and announcing to customers that everything they want to buy is on him.

Drake said on Instagram Saturday that he wanted fans to do something to bring joy to someone and to tag him with the details.

He said he wants people to be nice to each other, even if only for 24 hours.

Longtime employee is irked by colleagues' work ethic

DEAR ABBY: I am almost 62 and struggling to get through the day at work. It's not because of the work itself, but I am extremely unhappy in the work environment.

I have been here more than 20 years, and I have a real problem with the work ethic of the younger employees. They come in to work anywhere from a half-hour to two hours late. One of them takes hourlong breaks, two-hour lunches and then leaves early. Another comes to work and complains nonstop about her drive, her ex and all her aches and pains. (She just turned 40.) I go home every night frustrated and so stressed out I snap at my poor husband.

I really want to retire. It wouldn't be a financial burden, although we would have to cut back on a little spending. My husband won't offer an opinion, but I know I'd be much happier and healthier if I did. Any advice?

STRESSED AND TIRED

DEAR STRESSED: You might be happier and healthier if, rather than retire early, you talked to a licensed mental health professional about how to manage your stress. You can't control the behavior (or misbehavior) of your younger co-workers. That's your boss's responsibility. If their lack of punctuality and poor attendance doesn't bother your

employer, you should not be letting it affect you.

And as to the woman who complains about her aches, her pains and her ex — why are you listening to that garbage? You have only a few more years until you reach an a—and without having to cut back. Please consider what I have said and ride it out.

DEAR ABBY: I recently had a phone conversation with a cousin who lives on the other side of the country. We talk once a month. She has always been judgmental and negative about our cousins, aunts, uncles, etc., who—for the most part—she rarely communicates with. In the past, when she would put them down, I'd cut the conversation short because I didn't want to listen.

During our last chat, she started in on my brother. That's when I lost it. I gave her a piece of my mind and hung up. Since then, she has texted and called a few times, but I haven't responded.

I feel bad for what happened, but at the same time, I refuse to listen to her talk badly about and judge other family members. How should I handle this? Should I respond to her? In one of her texts she said she "didn't mean to upset me," but I don't consider that an apology.

HATES JUDGMENT IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR HATES JUDGMENT: Yes, you should respond to your cousin. She needs to understand that you are changing the rules regarding further conversations with her.

Explain that it has always made you uncomfortable when she said unkind, judgmental things about family members, and that when she started in on your brother, you finally reached your limit. Tell her that in the future when you talk, it must be about positive things and not family members. After that, the ball will be in her court. See if she follows through.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

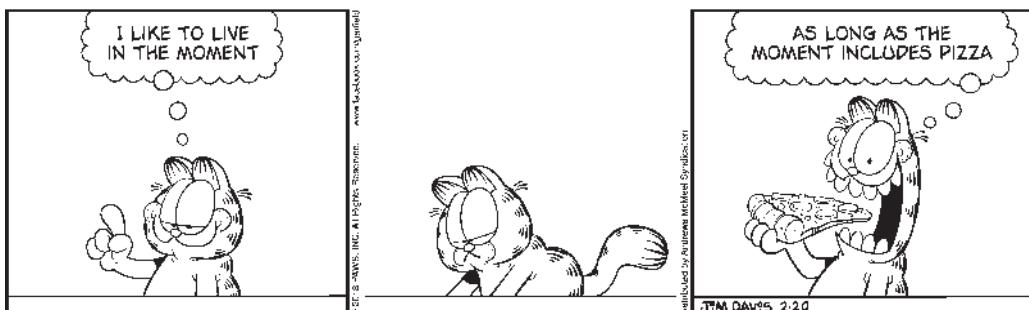
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

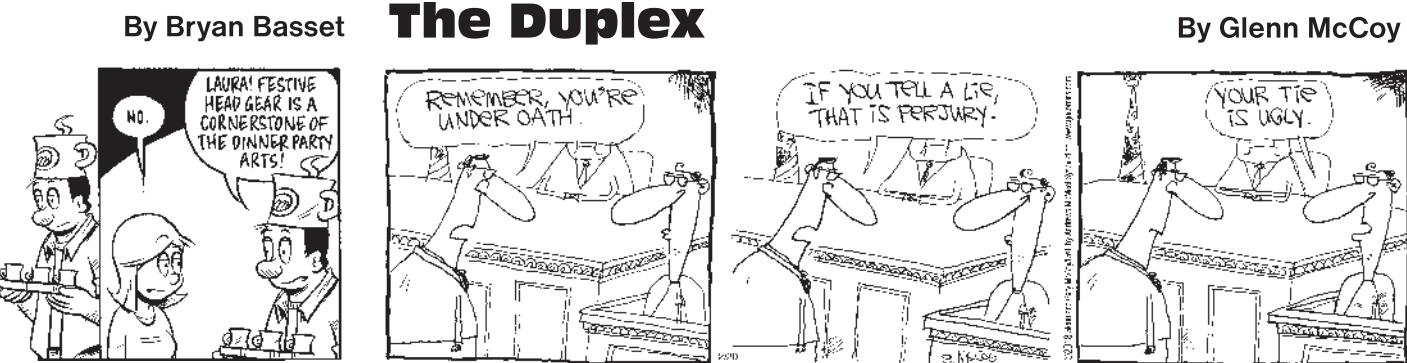


By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



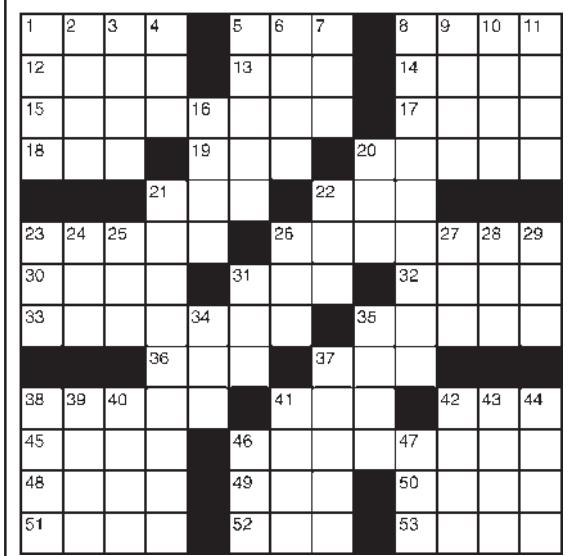
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	Ginger	DOWN	21	Tijuana		
1	Combo	cookies	1	Low	toppers		
5	Corn	36	Wardrobe	2	range		
throw-	away	malfunc-	22	Tiara	jewel		
8	Unwanted	37	Mouse	23	Vinyl		
email	chaser	38	Sire	records	24	Wapiti	
12	Lotion	41	Glitch	25	Chap		
additive		42	Hardly	26	Paris		
13	Simile	any	5	street	27	Play-	
center		45	Addict	wright	Play-	wright	
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Solution time: 22 mins.

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rihanna, 30; Brian Littrell, 43; Willie Garson, 54; Sidney Poitier, 91.

Happy Birthday: Expect to feel pressured by what others do and say. Mellow out and refuse to get caught in someone else's drama. Focus on what you want and the best way to help others, not the demands being put on you. Open a new chapter and take advantage of your knowledge, skills and experience, and you will excel without jeopardizing your integrity. Your numbers are 1, 14, 22, 28, 34, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Change will be difficult to avoid, not because of what others say or do, but because of your tendency to react instantaneously when faced with opposition or challenges. Make a point to think before you react. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let your emotions take over or push you to make sudden decisions or changes in your life that you may later regret. Moderation and sticking to what's worked in the past will bring better results. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Change will not be as easy as you hope. A change of heart will take place due to inside information. Avoid a scuffle with someone who uses false information or brings up something you did a long time ago. Own up and move on. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't fold under pressure or allow someone you are in a partnership with to put demands on you. It's important to do your own thing and to

follow through with the plans that fit best with the goals you want to achieve. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Weigh the ups and downs of a contract or deal you want to pursue. It's best to look at the fine print and to offer constructive criticism in any business deal. Sharing what you have to offer will make a difference. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn through experience and don't forget the lessons that have already taken place. Your ability to remain calm and to see things realistically will help you stake out a strong position. Share facts and offer solutions. **★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put an offer together that will make potential partners feel comfortable. Offer fair terms that benefit everyone equally, and the response you get in return will help you choose who is best suited to work with as you move forward. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Communication, partnerships and sharing your dreams will lead to interesting options that can bring you one step closer to reaching your goals. Celebrate with someone you love and you'll get the support you need to move forward. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can bring about change, but before you dive in, make sure you have all your facts correct and your plans laid out in detail. Don't expect smooth sailing, especially if you have to deal with others. Emotional manipulation is apparent. **★★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't fold under pressure or allow someone you are in a partnership with to put demands on you. It's important to do your own thing and to

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Dissect a situation before you decide whether to get involved. If someone pressures you, it's a sure sign to back away and pursue your own interests. Someone from your past will prompt you to reconnect. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change will do you good. Look for a new position or find a way to put your skills to better use. Whether at home or at work, being frugal and using your common sense will encourage you to excel. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your persuasive and informative manner will help you get your way. Offering personal insight into situations will encourage others to step up and support your efforts. Keep the peace if someone opposes you. Intelligence will trump anger. **★★★★**

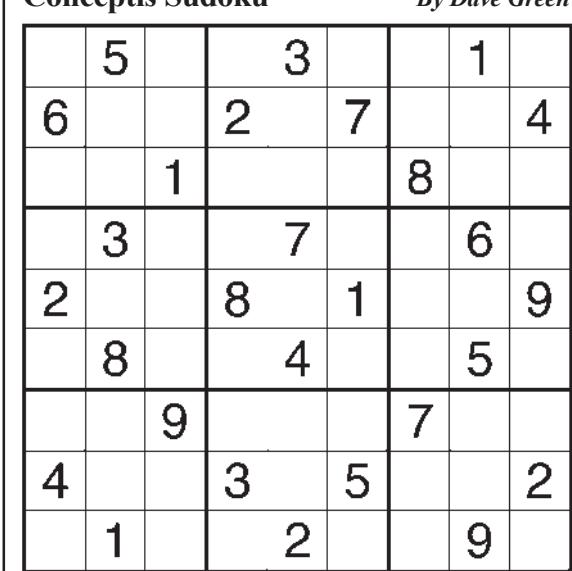
Birthday Baby: You are progressive, challenging and humanitarian. You are aggressive and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

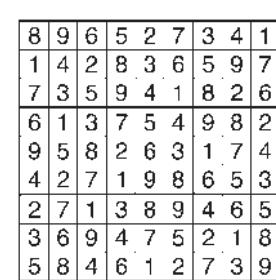
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Yesterday's Answer

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WORD BLANKETS



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2/20
Afghan, Baby, Blanket, Calm, Cloth, Coats, Comforter, Covering, Coverlet, Decorative, Down, Feathers, Flannel, Fringe, Heavy, Hoover, Horse, Hotel, Insulate, Linen, Luxurious, Mantle, Micro, Muslin, Mylar, Picnic, Pillow, Polar, Protects, Ragged, Robes, Saddle, Security, Sherpa, Sleeper, Soft, Space, Swaddle, Thermal, Velvet, Warmth, Woven
Yesterday's Answer: Semper Fi
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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(6) Landscaper and Grounds keeping worker, (4) Waiters and Waitress, (2) Truck Driver, (2) Administrative Assistant, (4) Cook, (4) Housekeeping Cleaner, (2) Massage Therapists, (2) Sewer and Tailors, (8) Maintenance and Repair Workers, (14) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist, (2) Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum wage. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950

(1) Taekwondo Instructor, \$10.25/hr. (1) Administrative Assistant, minimum wage. Mail resume to Blue Dragon Martial Arts Corporation at P.O. Box 506310 Saipan, MP 96950

(3) Maintenance and Repair Worker, minimum wage. Mail resume to Elliott System, LLC at P.O. Box 5568 Saipan, MP 96950

(1) Operation Manager, \$9.75/hr and (3) Camera operators, Television, Video and Motion Picture, minimum wage. Mail resume to Saipan TV Productions PMB 272 Box 10000 Saipan MP, 96950

(4) Cook, minimum wage. Mail resume to Everest Kitchen Company PMB 1311 Box 10002 Saipan MP, 96950

(1) Accountant, (8) Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, (4) Auto Diesel Mechanic-minimum wage. (1) Sales Manager, \$7.25-\$10.33/hr(1) Trucking & Maintenance Manager, \$7.25 to \$8. Mail resume to Cargo Express (Saipan), inc. P.O. Box 506391 Saipan MP 96950.

2 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum wage. Mail resume to Burger & Comer P.C. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

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Contact No.: 323-2916

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- Can Operate Industrial Machines Like Lathe Machine, Milling Machine, Crankshaft Grinding Machine

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BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Saipan Tribune

Cousins will file grievance if Redskins use franchise tag

WASHINGTON (AP)—Quarterback Kirk Cousins will file a grievance against the Washington Redskins if the team officially places a franchise tag on him, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

Beginning Tuesday, teams have through March 6 to designate the players they want to franchise or transition tag. The Redskins have tagged Cousins the past two seasons.

Although the Redskins recently traded for quarterback Alex Smith, they could place a franchise tag on Cousins to prevent him from becoming a free agent and then trade him to get value in return.

Citing a person with knowledge of the situation, Cousins will file a grievance through the NFL players' union if the Redskins tag him.

Cousins, 29, may argue that the team is violating the collective bargaining agreement since it has no intention of negotiating a long-term deal with him or having him play under the \$34.5 million franchise tag guaranteed this year.



AP

In this Dec. 31, 2017, file photo, Washington Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins (8) throws a pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J. Cousins says he is likely to wait until March for any possible negotiations with the Washington Redskins, indicating he would first make the team decide whether to apply a transition or franchise tag on him for the third year in a row.

7-9 season, could tag Cousins to prevent him from becoming a free agent on March 14. However, the team cannot trade him until he signs the franchise tag. Also, \$34.5 million would count against their salary cap until they trade him.

The Buffalo Bills, Cleveland Browns, Denver Broncos, Minnesota Vikings and New York Jets are among the teams interested in Cousins, who threw for 4,093 yards with 27 touchdowns and 13 interceptions last season. The Browns and Jets have the most money of those teams to spend in free agency.

Browns offensive tackle Joe Thomas has publicly lobbied for Cousins to come to Cleveland, which is coming off a 0-16 record and has won just one game the past two seasons. Cousins has said he wants to play for a team that has the best chance to contend.

Watson wins at Riviera for 3rd time

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bubba Watson was feeling low about his health and even worse about his golf. It reached a point that he wondered if he would ever win again, and he says he talked with his wife on a dozen occasions about retiring.

Being back at Riviera changed his outlook and made him a winner again.

Watson stayed in the game with three key putts early on the back nine, then fulfilled a playful pledge he forgot he even made on the par-3 14th by holing a bunker shot for birdie that allowed him to seize control Sunday in the Genesis Open. He never gave anyone a chance the rest of the way, closing with a 2-under 69 for a two-shot victory over Tony Finau and Kevin Na.

Watson won for the first time in two years, his longest drought of the decade. He joined Lloyd Mangrum and Ben Hogan as three-time winners at Riviera. And he won for the 10th time in his PGA Tour career, an important milestone to him.

"Nobody thought that Bubba Watson from Bagdad, Florida, would ever get to 10 wins. Let's be honest," Watson said. "Without lessons, head case, hooking the ball, slicing the ball, can't putt, you know?"

He put on a clinic at Riviera, somehow managed to keep his focus, carved shots

around, over and through the trees, and he made all the right putts.

Watson talks the way he hits the ball—all over the map—and he was particularly elusive about what caused him to lose so much weight last year. He says he reached close to 160 pounds, which he says affected his game and ultimately his confidence.

"I'm here. I'm healthy," he said. "There are people that are a lot sicker than me in this world, so the illness is nothing."

Watson, who finished at 12-under 272, moved from No. 117 to No. 41 in the world, making him eligible for the World Golf Championship in Mexico in two weeks.

Na hit a wedge close to perfection from the worst angle on the reachable par-4 10th hole for a birdie and two-putted for birdie on the 11th to briefly take the lead. He fell back with consecutive bogeys from the trees and shot 69. Finau lurked all day. His last chance was an eagle putt on the 17th that stopped inches short of the hole.

Patrick Cantlay had a one-shot lead going to the back nine until he ran into tree trouble on the 12th and 13th holes. The UCLA alum could do no better than pars the rest of the way for a 71 to tie for

fourth with Scott Stallings (68).

Phil Mickelson also was in the hunt. He was within one shot of the lead when he hit a 4-iron from a deep bunker on the 15th hole to just right of the green. But he went after birdie and watched the ball roll 20 feet down the hill, leading to bogey. Mickelson shot 68 and tied for sixth.

Coming off good weeks at Phoenix and Pebble Beach, Mickelson has three straight top 10s for the first time since 2009.

The biggest moment for Watson involved his desperation to find a bathroom after they teed off on the 14th. Cameron Smith, who shot 71 and tied for sixth, told him there was one off the 15th tee and he was only a couple of shots away.

"I said, 'Nah, I'm just going to hole it and go to the bathroom.' And then I holed it," he said.

His caddie, Ted Scott, mentioned before Watson stepped into the bunker that he hadn't holed out in some time, so after the ball splashed out of the sand and rolled against the pin before dropping, he turned to Scott and said, "You called it."

Smith came over and told Watson, "You called it." By then, Watson had forgotten their conversation.

The franchise tag is usually used by teams to buy time to continue contract talks in hopes of agreeing to a long-term deal. Tagged players have until 4 p.m. ET on July 16 to sign multi-year contracts or extensions.

The Redskins, coming off a

It is unlikely the Redskins would negotiate a long-term deal with Cousins since they just traded for Smith and signed him to an extension that the team controls for the next five years.

The Redskins, coming off a

Mets GM thinks Tebow will play in majors

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—Tim

Tebow arrived at the New York Mets spring training camp on Sunday, and the attention immediately turned to whether the quarterback who became an outfielder could make it all the way to Citi Field in the future.

Guess what? Mets general manager Sandy Alderson votes yes.

"Somebody asked me if thought he'd be a major league player at some point. I think he will play in the major leagues. That's my guess," Alderson said.

"This experiment is not going to last forever, but he's made meaningful progress. We thought he would best benefit from being in major league camp—that that would accelerate his development," Alderson said.

The 30-year-old Tebow has already had success on another field. A former Heisman Trophy winner and two-time national champion at Florida, he reached the NFL and threw an overtime TD pass for Denver to beat Pittsburgh in the playoffs.

"As an athlete, you always

want to be the best you can and play at the highest level, win a championship, be the best. We don't compete to have fun, we compete to win. So you want to compete at the highest level," Tebow said,

"I view success as being able to play a game I love every day," he said. "If the best that I can be is in the bigs, that would be awesome. I believe in myself and want to strive for that."

As for the possibility of never reaching the majors, Tebow said, "If that doesn't happen, I won't look back and regret playing baseball because I've already enjoyed it and put so much work into it and been fun. There's a difference between what you hope for and what you view as success."

Tebow earned a midseason promotion from Low-A Columbia to High-A St. Lucie in late June despite hitting just .220 in 64 games in the South Atlantic League.

With St. Lucie, he started out strong. He was hitting .303 in his first 30 games with the St. Lucie Mets before slumping and ending his Florida State League cam-

paign with a .231 average, five homers and 29 RBI in 62 games.

Tebow said he learned from his first full year in baseball.

"For me, it was going into the offseason and knowing what I had to work on. It was my first time playing a baseball season in 12 years since my junior year of high school," said Tebow, who is 12 pounds lighter than last spring.

"It's hard to fully make changes in a season when you're competing one night, you work on it the next day and you compete the next night. It's hard for those changes to really lock in," he said.

Tebow has worked to improve his swing, looking for more lift and becoming freer with his hands and more athletic. He spent a lot of time in the outfield to improve his overall defense, and focused on his baserunning.

He has contractual college football obligations with ESPN and the SEC Network when September's roster expansion occurs, but said baseball is the top priority.

Team LeBron rallies past Team Stephen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James picked a winner in the NBA All-Star Game.

James scored 29 points and hit the go-ahead layup with 34.5 seconds to play, winning his third All-Star Game MVP award while his hand-picked team rallied to win an uncommonly entertaining showcase, beating Team Stephen 148-145 Sunday night.

For the first time in the 67 editions of the All-Star Game, the league abandoned the traditional East-West format used since 1951 and allowed team captains James and Stephen Curry to choose their own rosters.

That twist turned a sometimes staid event into the world's richest pickup game, and the intrigue was reflected on the Staples Center court, where a real basketball game broke out.

LeBron's team even won an All-Star game with defense: On the final possession, James and Kevin Durant blanketed Curry, preventing the 3-point-shooting superstar from getting off a potential tying shot.

"I think myself and Stephen took it upon ourselves when we took on this format that we had to change the way this game was played," said James, who also had 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Both teams played defense for long stretches and contested many shots, with LeBron's group even picking up full-court late in the first half. Team LeBron also rallied from a double-digit deficit in the final minutes, tying it at 144-144 on James' 3-pointer with 1:31 to play.

LA native DeMar DeRozan hit one free throw to put Team Steph ahead, but LeBron claimed the lead with his layup after some sharp passing by his teammates. DeRozan then made a turnover on an attempted pass to Giannis Antetokounmpo, and Russell Westbrook broke out for a layup with 10.7 seconds left.

Team Steph had one last chance, but even the usually unguardable Curry couldn't find enough space to launch a 3 between his fellow captain and Durant, his Golden State teammate. Curry finished with 11 points on 4-for-14 shooting.

"We got stops when we needed to," Westbrook said.

Indeed.

The All-Stars' shooting percentages and final scores were way down from recent seasons, reflecting the effort on the floor. The relaxed All-Star vibe was still at Staples, however: Curry chowed down on a box of popcorn on the bench

during the third quarter, and the stars made time and room for plenty of good-looking dunks and alley-oops.

Each member of the winning team made a cool \$100,000, a distinct raise from previous seasons in another attempt to make things more interesting.

The All-Star draft led to interesting dynamics on court.

Curry chose his Golden State teammates Klay Thompson and Draymond Green, but the trio had to play against Durant. James also chose Oklahoma City duo Westbrook and Paul George to play along with Kyrie Irving, who forced a trade away from James in Cleveland just last summer.

Irving and James had no obvious friction, even laughing and joking on the bench. Neither did Durant and Westbrook, who broke up in 2016 when Durant left Oklahoma City for Golden State.

DeRozan and Damian Lillard led Team Stephen with 21 points apiece. Jimmy Butler didn't play after being selected for the fourth time. First-time All-Star Karl-Anthony Towns was outstanding. The Minnesota forward had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Durant scored 19 points and George added 16 for Team LeBron. Three first-time All-Stars suited up. Washington's Bradley Beal scored 14 points, Miami's Goran Dragic had two and Indiana's Victor Oladipo got seven.

The All-Star Game featured no Lakers or Clippers, who share Staples Center during the regular season. But



AP Team Stephen's Giannis Antetokounmpo, left, of the Milwaukee Bucks, blocks the shot of Team LeBron's Kemba Walker of the Charlotte Hornets during the first half of an NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018, in Los Angeles.

several All-Stars have Los Angeles roots, including area natives Paul George, Russell Westbrook, DeMar DeRozan, James Harden and Klay Thompson. George and James are coveted as offseason signings by Lakers fans, but there was no reprise of the "We want Paul!" chants for the Palmdale native after Saturday's All-Star practice.

LeBron lost four of his original selections to injuries, including Cleveland teammate Kevin Love, Kristaps Porzingis and John Wall. Anthony Davis represented his fellow New Orleans All-Star, DeMarcus Cousins, by wearing Cousins' No. 0 jersey to start the game.

The All-Star weekend was held in Hollywood for a record sixth time. A partial list of celebrities attending the game: Jack Nicholson, Beyoncé, Rihanna, Snoop Dogg, Chadwick Boseman, Chance the Rapper, Jimmy Kimmel, Michael B. Jordan, Chris Rock, Ludacris, Common, Spike Lee, Andy Garcia, Dave Chappelle, DJ Khaled, Tracy Morgan, Sean Combs, Odell Beckham Jr. and pregame host Kevin Hart, who lobbed roast-style jokes at the All-Stars with mostly blah results. After a much-criticized pregame national anthem from Fergie, N.E.R.D and Migos performed an energizing halftime show.

Nash, Kidd, Hill among finalists for Hall of Fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Point guards could run the show in the next Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame class, with Jason Kidd and two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash among the 13 finalists announced Saturday morning.

Ray Allen, Grant Hill, Maurice Cheeks and Chris Webber also made the cut, but the two standout point guards are all but locks to headline the class, which will be unveiled during the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio.

Kidd ranks second in NBA history with 12,091 assists, and Nash is third with 10,335 assists.

Nash won back-to-back MVP awards in 2005 and 2006 with the Phoenix Suns. He made the All-NBA first team three times during his 18-year career with the Suns,

Dallas Mavericks and Los Angeles Lakers and helped kickstart the development of the sport in Canada with his freewheeling style. Nash was also a two-time WCC player of the year in 1995-96 at Santa Clara and engineered a memorable upset of second-seeded Arizona in the NCAA Tournament.

Kidd was the 1994-95 NBA rookie of the year, setting the stage for a 19-year career in which he made the All-NBA first team five times and All-Defensive first team four times. Kidd won an NBA title with the Dallas Mavericks in 2011 and is second all-time with 2,684 steals. He also was named Pac-10 freshman of the year in 1993 and Pac-10 player of the year in 1994 during his two seasons at California, and won gold

medals with the U.S. in Sydney Olympics in 2000 and Beijing Olympics in 2008.

James Worthy, the standout Lakers forward who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003, saw plenty of both Kidd and Nash as a television analyst. Worthy thinks it would be fitting for Kidd and Nash to be inducted in the same class.

"Enhancers of the game, and made everyone else better than they probably were," Worthy said. "Jason Kidd had a flair that was like Magic Johnson, he just had angles. And Steve Nash was the same way."

There are other strong contenders outside of Kidd and Nash, with Hill's college success and Allen's prolific shooting marking the stron-

gest arguments for each of their respective candidacies.

Allen's 2,973 three-pointers made are the most in NBA history. He won NBA titles with the Boston Celtics in 2008 and Miami Heat in 2013, memorably sending Game 6 to overtime on a tying 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left in regulation.

Hill was a two-time national champion and two-time All-American at Duke, but injuries kept him from reaching the same heights in the NBA during his 19-year career.

Charles "Lefty" Driesell, Rudy Tomjanovich and Baylor's Kim Mulkey made the final ballot as coaches. Katie Smith, Tina Thompson and longtime NBA official Hugh Evans are also finalists.

Driesell took four different

schools to the NCAA Tournament and won two ACC Tournament titles at Maryland. Tomjanovich led the Houston Rockets to consecutive NBA titles in 1994-95. Mulkey won an NCAA title as a player at Louisiana Tech and two more as the coach of the Bears.

The 1953-58 Wayland Baptist University teams that won 131 consecutive games and four AAU national championships is the lone team finalist.

In addition to the finalists, Andy Bernstein and Doris Burke were named recipients of the 2018 Curt Gowdy media award.

Finalists must receive 18 votes from the 24-member honors committee to be enshrined.

The entire class will be unveiled during the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio.

5 games to open Little League season this Saturday

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Little League is set to open this Saturday with a heavy five-game schedule.

Twenty-three teams spread out in the Minor (5), Major (9), Junior (5), and Senior (4) divisions will be competing this season and matches will be played at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field and the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field.

The Minor division for 7- to 11-year-old kids will play once a week, with the NSA Braves taking on the Little Cubs in the opening day after the brief ceremony at 9am. The Kagman Marlins, Comets, and Northern Yankees are the other Minor division

teams that will play at the "Tan Ge" field.

The Major division for the 11-12 age group have matches on Saturdays and Sundays also at the "Tan Ge" field. The Braves will face the Taalabwogh Falcons in the opener, followed by the Pirates-Kagman Little Legals tussle. Then on Sunday, the Little Cubs will clash with McDonald's at 9am, while the Bank of Saipan-Comets match will be next. The Twins complete the 11-12 age group field.

Over at the "Tan Ko" field, Saturday's matches in the Junior division will have the Falcons battling Comets I and the Falcons colliding with the Fielders in the Senior side.

In other games this weekend, the Braves will meet the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Twins batter swings during their game against the Falcons in the Major division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

WPTC Chiefs in the Junior division at 9am on Sunday, followed by the Braves-Comets Senior league match. The Comets II is the other team in the Junior League.

Meanwhile, SLL Baseball Inc. player-agent Piding Tenorio is again reminding all managers and coaches of teams in the Minor, Major, and Junior divisions to complete the players' documents and submit them this weekend. Player's regis-



tion forms, medical releases, school enrolment, insurance, and parents consent forms must be turned in before the league kicks off.

"Coaches need to provide the birth certificates of their new players, while the returning players don't need to," added Tenorio.

The Little Cubs and Northern Yankees (Minor); the Little Cubs, McDonald's, and Twins (Major); and the Braves (Junior) are the teams that have yet to complete their documents, while all Senior division squads have met the competition requirements.

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in Port Vila, Vanuatu, San Nicolas has the best chance to represent the CNMI anew in a regional tournament.

Apelo was also in the senior men's 105kg division and successfully lifted a total of 260kgs behind his 115kg in snatch and 145kg in clean and jerk. Ramon Kapileo, the other participant in the same weight category, had lifts of 50kg and 51kg for a 101kg tally.

Santos, who entered in the men's 69kg division, had 107kg in the snatch then added 131kg in the clean and jerk for a 227kg total, while Barnhouse lifted only 125kgs in the snatch as he was unsuccessful in his three attempts of lifting 160kg in the clean and jerk.

Joey Tudela, who has also represented the CNMI in several regional competitions, had lifts of 190 and 105 for a 195kg total in the senior men's 85kg division, while Roderigo Ada had 141kgs (55kgs snatch; 86kgs clean and jerk).

Dennis Moses competed in the senior men's 77kg weight division and had a 42kg lift in the snatch and 45kgs in the clean and jerk for a total of 87kgs. Josh Mateo lifted a total of 143kgs (63kgs snatch; 80kgs clean and jerk) in the youth men's 85kg division, while Traven Quitugua tallied 92kgs (44kgs snatch; 48kgs clean and jerk), and Oldie Joe Roligat had 89kgs (41kgs snatch; 48kgs clean and jerk).

Quitugua and Roligat are under the junior men's 69kg weight division.

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation organized the one-day qualifying event at the San Jose fitness facility with Greg Borja as overall coordinator, and Dee Clayton, Cleo Nening, and Jose Quan as judges.

The Commonwealth has high hopes on the island's weightlifters after they brought home 12 medals from Pohnpei, which hosted the 2014 Micronesian Games.

Early bird signup deadline for Saipan Marathon

The next registration deadline before fees increase for Saipan Marathon 2018 is this Friday, Feb. 23.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) signature event will be held on March 10 and fees for 50K and marathon are \$65 for U.S. and CNMI participants and \$55 for half marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students is \$40.

Registration after Feb. 23 for the 50K and marathon will increase to \$95 for U.S. and CNMI participants, and \$85 for half marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students will be \$55. The last day to register for the event will be on March 8. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

As of Feb. 12, 477 runners have registered for the race, including 195 from China.

"We have been strategizing in all our source markets on the best ways to reach and register more runners, and we are seeing stronger results from China, especially,

as a result of those efforts," said MVA managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We also continue our heavy promotions in Japan, where most of our racers have traditionally hailed from. Overall, we are looking for a very strong turnout this year."

For the first time, the MVA is providing online registration on its official website in China—the www.mymarianas.cn. Marianas tourism partners throughout the country have developed marathon-themed travel products, with major partners Dynasty Holidays, Century Tours, and Shenzhen Professional Workers International Travel Service each attracting dozens of runners. Travel agencies in secondary cities are also promoting the event, and Asiana Airlines and HK Express are promoting race registration on their social media accounts. Running and marathon platforms including Joyrun, ZX42195, Zuicool, iRanshao and Sina Sports have collectively reached over 25 million people with their recruitment efforts, and the MVA also launched a

Facebook campaign on Feb. 14 with HK Express targeting Hong Kong.

Registered runners also hail from The Marianas, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Poland, and Guam.

Over \$22,000 in cash prizes will be awarded after the race, including \$4,000 each for first male and female finishers in the 50K course; \$3,000 each for first male and female finishers in the full marathon course; \$1,000 each for first male and female finishers in the half marathon course; and \$500 each for first male and female finishers in the 10K course.

Two separate registration pages are open and participants should register under their respective page at www.webscorer.com by searching Race ID no. 122827 for Saipan Marathon 2018 (U.S. & CNMI) registration or Race ID No. 122811 for Saipan Marathon2018 (international) registration. The marathon is certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations through



SAIPAN
MARATHON 2018

Tour Service Inc., Taiwan Rainbow Wings Ing., BARREL Korea, Saipan Beach Hotel, and Kanoa Resort.

Aid Stations will be manned by Mariana Resort & Spa, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Imperial Pacific International, Pacific Development Inc., Tasi Tours, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Saipan World Resort, IT&E, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The event is also supported by Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Fire & Emergency

goals, while Paulynn Joyce and Katrina Costales made one apiece.

CNMI United's three goals all came from Ian Maniago and with the squad getting only two wins it finished third in the rankings and will meet

Medical Services, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Public Lands, Div. of Parks & Grounds, Saipan Mayor's Office, Hawaiian Rock Products, and Marianas Health Services.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets in person on March 9, from 4 to 6pm at the American Memorial Park, without exception. The race will start and finish at Micro Beach. Start time are at 4:30am for the 50K; 5am for the full marathon; 5:30am for the half marathon; and 6am for the 10K. The cut-off time for the 50K and marathon will be 9:30am and runners should be near the intersection of Navy Hill and Chalan Pale Arnold Road by that time.

Individuals wanting to make cash payments may register in person at the MVA office located on Beach Road in San Jose, Saipan (no checks accepted). For a direct link to the on-line registration site or for more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA community projects specialist Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. (PR)

Betde United (4-0-2) in the second semifinals game in the division this Thursday at 5:30pm.

In the first semis tiff today, also at 5:30pm, the undefeated Fake Madrid will battle the winless Marianas United.

sets, 6-4, 6-3.

In the women's singles, Miyawaki defeated Grace Choi, 6-0, 6-1.

In other results, Dong Min Lee bagged the men's over 40 singles championship after sweeping Gary Ramsey, 6-0, 6-1.

CTSI

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tie for second place, 6-2 (goal difference). The No.2 CTSI scored 20 goals and gave up 14, while Tinsel Toes tallied 28 and yielded 26. Tinsel

Toes and CTSI will square off this Thursday for the second finals ticket in the division, while the top-ranked Betde (4-1-1) will dispute the first finals berth against Kanoa Ali'i (0-1-5).

Meanwhile, Fake Madrid

tively. Song went on to complete the Top 3 after slipping past Paik, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Schorr and Woo played their title match in the morning and after only a few hours the former returned to the court to challenge Moris Villanueva in the men's sin-

finished the preliminary round of the co-ed U15 division unscathed after downing CNMI United, 8-3.

Kaden Church drilled four goals to power Fake Madrid to its sixth win in as many games. Rintaro Miyawaki added two

gles finals. Fatigue then took its toll on Schorr, as he was forced to retire in the second set. Villanueva eased past Schorr in the opening set, 6-1, to boost his chances for the title, which the 19-year-old player eventually won as his foe could no longer con-

tinue playing.

Meanwhile, in the women's field, Ferrer and Miyawaki prevailed in their head-to-head against their respective opponents.

Ferrer faced Anika Camacho in the lone girls U14 singles and won after only two

2018 Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim



Participants in the 2018 Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held early this month pose for a group photo before they head out to the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lennosuke Suzuki gets out of the water to finish the nearly three-kilometer race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Christian Villacrusis gets ready to remove his goggles.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero runs to the shore, while two of his Saipan Swim Club teammates try to finish the swim.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sophia Gauran takes her time before heading out of the water.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matthew Milo heads to the shore.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jinnosuke Suzuki runs out of the water to complete the three-loop race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Savita Sikkel rushes out of the water.



Cousins will file grievance if Redskins use franchise tag

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Team LeBron rallies past Team Stephen

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Vets likely to earn Micro Games slots



JON PEREZ
Leo Apelo reacts as he attempts to lift 145kgs in the clean and jerk during last Saturday's qualifying event for the CNMI national weightlifting team at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Veteran weightlifters are most likely to get spots on the CNMI national team based on their performance in last Saturday's qualifying event held at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center.

Expected to lead the Commonwealth's charge in the 2018 Micronesian Games are 2017 Pacific Mini Games bronze medalist Angel San Nicolas, 2014 Micro Games gold medalist David Barnhouse Jr., and silver medalists Leonardo Apelo Jr. and Raymond Santos.



San Nicolas had a total lift of 235 kilograms or 105 in the snatch and 130 in the clean and jerk in the senior men's 105kg weight category. Although, his record in the qualifier was 16kgs short of the 251 he lifted when he secured the bronze in last December's Mini Games

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Malika Miyawaki rushes forward for a return during her and Danny Jeoung's game against Ken Song and Isaac Heo in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic last week at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

4 clinch singles titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Junior players J.C. Ferrier, Malika Miyawaki, Robbie Schorr, and Richard Steele ruled their respective singles events in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic that concluded yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Steele won the boys U14 singles crown after beating Daniel Kang in the championship game, 6-3, 6-0. Steele was seeded first in the 13-player field and lived up to expectations as he did not drop a single set en route to clinching the division title. Steele earlier swept Seung Won Lee, 6-3, 6-1, and then topped No. 3 Andy Kim in the semifinals, 6-4, 6-3, to

notch the second finals berth in his category.

Kang took the first finals berth after eliminating No. 4 Eubin Park, 7-5, 6-0, and also needed only two sets to down Hyunmin Cho, 6-0, 6-0, before failing to keep his run in the finals against Steele. Kim joined Steele and Kang in the podium after winning over Park in the consolation game, 6-2, 6-3.

In the boys U16 singles finale, Schorr dominated Ji Min Woo, 6-3, 6-1. Schorr was the No. 1 seed player in the division and duplicated Steele's feat, as the former recorded his twin wins via sweeps. The No. 2 Woo was also unscathed in his first two games before fall-

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Semis-bound CTSI Petmalu blanks foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CTSI Petmalu hammered La Fabrica, 7-0, to avoid an early collision against the unbeaten Bruv in the co-ed U18 division of Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament.

CTSI Petmalu finished third in the team standings after dominating La Fabrica in the final elimination game last Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex. The No. 3 CTSI Petmalu earned a 2-2-1 win-loss-draw record and will face Suplex City (3-1-1) in the semifinals this Thursday. Bruv (5-0-0) and ABCD FC (2-1-2) will meet in the other Final Four pairing tonight at 7:30pm, while La Fabrica (1-0-4) and Islanders FC (0-0-5) were booted out of the competition.

A balance scoring helped CTSI Petmalu win its last game and dislodge ABCD FC at the third spot.

Five different players hit the board for CTSI Petmalu with Thaiphia Austria leading the way after making a pair. Jonathan Capayas, Britanny Wally, Joshua Abragan, and Joshua De Leon chipped one apiece, while the squad's third goal in the second half came off La Fabrica's error.

CTSI Petmalu's team in the co-ed U12 division also delivered in its last game before the playoffs after shutting down Kanoa Ali'i, 4-0.

Carvin Cruzat knocked in two goals for CTSI Petmalu, while Audrey Castro and Pia Ngewakl contributed one apiece. CTSI Petmalu ended the preliminary round with a 3-1-2 mark, beating Tinsel Toes in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CTSI Petmalu's Joshua De Leon surveys the pitch before kicking the ball during their co-ed U18 division game against ABCD FC in Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament this month at the TSL Sports Complex.